

TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC
Form 10-K
March 18, 2013

Use these links to rapidly review the document

[Table of Contents](#)

[PART IV](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, DC 20549

FORM 10-K

(Mark
One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Commission file number 001-33274

TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or organization)

20-5701514
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

24601 Center Ridge Road, Suite 200, Westlake, OH 44145-5639
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(440) 808-9100
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

| Title of each class | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Common Shares | NYSE MKT |
| 8.25% Senior Notes due 2028 | NYSE MKT |

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

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

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

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 period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, 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.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

The aggregate market value of the voting shares of the registrant held by non-affiliates was \$121.4 million based on the closing price per common share of \$5.07 on the NYSE MKT on June 29, 2012. For purposes of this calculation, the aggregate of 2,274,824 common shares that were held by the directors and officers of the registrant, and 2,540,000 common shares that were held by Hospitality Properties Trust, as of June 29, 2012, have been included in the number of common shares held by affiliates.

Number of the registrant's common shares outstanding as of March 14, 2013: 29,535,851.

References in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, to "TA", "TravelCenters", the "Company", "we", "us" and "our" include TravelCenters of America LLC and our consolidated subsidiaries unless otherwise expressly stated or the context indicates otherwise.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Certain information required in Items 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Part III of this Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated by reference to our definitive Proxy Statement for our 2013 Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be filed pursuant to Regulation 14A, or our definitive Proxy Statement.

Table of Contents

WARNING CONCERNING FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS

THIS ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K CONTAINS STATEMENTS THAT CONSTITUTE FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995 AND OTHER SECURITIES LAWS. ALSO, WHENEVER WE USE WORDS SUCH AS "BELIEVE", "EXPECT", "ANTICIPATE", "INTEND", "PLAN", "ESTIMATE" OR SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS, WE ARE MAKING FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS. THESE FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE BASED UPON OUR PRESENT INTENT, BELIEFS OR EXPECTATIONS, BUT FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO OCCUR AND MAY NOT OCCUR. ACTUAL RESULTS MAY DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THOSE CONTAINED IN OR IMPLIED BY OUR FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS AS A RESULT OF VARIOUS FACTORS. AMONG OTHERS, THE FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS WHICH APPEAR IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT THAT MAY NOT OCCUR INCLUDE:

WE STATE IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT OUR BELIEF THAT THE U.S. ECONOMY IS IN A PERIOD OF SLOW AND UNEVEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND EXPANSION. RECENT ECONOMIC DATA HAS BEEN MIXED AND IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY, IN THE U.S. ECONOMY OR IN THE TRUCKING OR TRAVEL CENTER INDUSTRIES MAY NOT CONTINUE, AND OUR FUEL AND NONFUEL SALES VOLUME MAY DECLINE;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT INCLUDES STATEMENTS THAT OUR NONFUEL SALES, FUEL GROSS MARGIN AND NONFUEL GROSS MARGIN LEVELS INCREASED. AN IMPLICATION OF THESE STATEMENTS MAY BE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO OPERATE PROFITABLY IN THE FUTURE. IN FACT, THERE ARE MANY FACTORS WHICH WILL IMPACT OUR FUTURE OPERATIONS THAT MAY CAUSE US TO OPERATE UNPROFITABLY IN ANNUAL AND/OR QUARTERLY PERIODS IN ADDITION TO THOSE STATED ITEMS, INCLUDING SOME FACTORS WHICH ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL SUCH AS SEASONALITY, THE CONDITION OF THE U.S. ECONOMY GENERALLY, THE FUTURE DEMAND FOR OUR GOODS AND SERVICES AND COMPETITION IN OUR BUSINESS;

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY MAY BE GREATER THAN WE CURRENTLY ANTICIPATE AND LEGISLATION AND REGULATION REGARDING CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS MAY BE ADOPTED OR ADMINISTERED AND ENFORCED DIFFERENTLY IN THE FUTURE AND ANY GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE COULD ADVERSELY IMPACT OUR TRAVEL CENTERS AND BUSINESS, WHICH COULD CAUSE US TO EXPEND SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS AND CAUSE OUR BUSINESS TO DECLINE MATERIALLY;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT WE HAVE ACQUIRED TRAVEL CENTER LOCATIONS DURING 2011 AND 2012, REFERENCES SEVERAL TRAVEL CENTER AND BUSINESS PURCHASES THAT WE HAVE COMPLETED OR AGREED TO COMPLETE DURING 2012 AND TO DATE IN 2013, STATES THAT WE EXPECT PURCHASES TO CLOSE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2013 AND STATES THAT WE CURRENTLY INTEND TO CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO SELECTIVELY ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES. THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE STATEMENTS MAY BE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE THE REFERENCED PURCHASES, WE WILL BE ABLE TO OPERATE OUR PURCHASED LOCATIONS PROFITABLY, AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY AND COMPLETE ADDITIONAL PURCHASES. MANY OF THE TRAVEL CENTERS WE HAVE ACQUIRED PRODUCED OPERATING

Table of Contents

RESULTS WHICH MAY HAVE CAUSED THE PRIOR OWNERS TO EXIT THESE BUSINESSES AND OUR ABILITY TO OPERATE THESE LOCATIONS PROFITABLY DEPENDS UPON MANY FACTORS, INCLUDING OUR ABILITY TO INTEGRATE NEW OPERATIONS INTO OUR EXISTING OPERATIONS AND SOME FACTORS WHICH ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL SUCH AS THE LEVEL OF DEMAND FOR OUR GOODS AND SERVICES ARISING FROM THE U.S. ECONOMY GENERALLY. WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATE NEW TRAVEL CENTER OPERATIONS OR OPERATE SUCH LOCATIONS PROFITABLY IN THE FUTURE. ALSO, WE MAY NOT SUCCEED IN COMPLETING THE PURCHASES TO WHICH WE HAVE AGREED AND WE MAY NOT SUCCEED IN IDENTIFYING AND/OR ACQUIRING OTHER PROPERTIES;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT OUR BUSINESS REQUIRES THAT WE MAKE REGULAR CAPITAL INVESTMENTS IN OUR BUSINESS AND THAT WE ESTIMATE THAT DURING 2013 WE WILL MAKE SUSTAINING CAPITAL INVESTMENTS OF \$45 MILLION TO \$55 MILLION IN OUR EXISTING TRAVEL CENTERS, SOME OF WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE OF THE TYPE OF IMPROVEMENTS WE TYPICALLY REQUEST HPT PURCHASE FROM US, AND CAPITAL INVESTMENTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TRAVEL CENTERS WE HAVE ACQUIRED OR AGREED TO ACQUIRE OF \$47 MILLION. THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ARE OFTEN DIFFICULT TO PREDICT. SOME CAPITAL PROJECTS COST MORE THAN ANTICIPATED AND THE PROCEEDS FROM THE ULTIMATE SALES OF IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY, TO HPT MAY BE LESS THAN OUR ESTIMATE. CURRENTLY UNANTICIPATED PROJECTS THAT WE MAY BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE IN THE FUTURE, AS A RESULT OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS OR REGULATION, ADVANCES OR CHANGES MADE BY OUR COMPETITION, DEMANDS OF OUR CUSTOMERS, ACQUISITIONS OR OTHER MATTERS, MAY ARISE AND CAUSE US TO SPEND MORE OR LESS THAN CURRENTLY ANTICIPATED. SOME CAPITAL PROJECTS TAKE MORE TIME THAN ANTICIPATED. AS A RESULT OF MARKET CONDITIONS OR CAPITAL CONSTRAINTS, WE MAY DEFER CERTAIN CAPITAL PROJECTS AND SUCH DEFERRAL MAY HARM OUR BUSINESS OR REQUIRE US TO MAKE LARGER CAPITAL EXPENDITURES IN THE FUTURE;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT AT DECEMBER 31, 2012, WE HAD \$35.2 MILLION OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, THAT THERE WERE NO AMOUNTS OUTSTANDING UNDER OUR BANK CREDIT FACILITY AT DECEMBER 31, 2012, THAT DURING 2012, WE RECEIVED \$76.8 MILLION FROM HOSPITALITY PROPERTIES TRUST, OR HPT, FOR SALES TO HPT OF QUALIFYING IMPROVEMENTS, THAT SOME OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS WE EXPECT TO MAKE IN 2013 WILL BE OF THE TYPE WE TYPICALLY REQUEST HPT PURCHASE FROM US, THAT WE INTEND IN THE FUTURE TO SELL TO HPT IMPROVEMENTS WE HAVE MADE TO THE PROPERTIES WE LEASE FROM HPT, THAT IN JANUARY 2013 WE RAISED NET PROCEEDS OF APPROXIMATELY \$105.2 MILLION FROM THE SALE OF SENIOR NOTES, AND THAT WE OWN UNENCUMBERED REAL ESTATE THAT MAY BE AN ADDITIONAL SOURCE OF FINANCIAL LIQUIDITY OVER TIME. THESE STATEMENTS MAY IMPLY THAT WE HAVE ABUNDANT WORKING CAPITAL AND CASH LIQUIDITY. IN FACT, OUR REGULAR OPERATIONS REQUIRE LARGE AMOUNTS OF WORKING CASH. AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012, \$58.2 MILLION OF OUR BANK CREDIT FACILITY WAS USED TO SECURE LETTERS OF CREDIT FOR OUR SUPPLIERS, INSURERS, AND TAXING AUTHORITIES, AND WE HAVE COLLATERALIZED OUR BANK FACILITY WITH SUBSTANTIALLY ALL OF OUR CASH, ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, INVENTORIES, EQUIPMENT AND INTANGIBLE

Table of Contents

ASSETS. IN ADDITION, OUR BUSINESS REQUIRES US TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL EXPENDITURES TO MAINTAIN OUR COMPETITIVENESS, HPT IS NOT OBLIGATED TO PURCHASE THE IMPROVEMENTS WE MAY REQUEST AND ANY SUCH PURCHASES HPT MAY MAKE RESULTS IN INCREASED RENT PAYABLE BY US, AND WE DO NOT KNOW THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE COULD MONETIZE OUR EXISTING UNENCUMBERED REAL ESTATE. ACCORDINGLY, WE MAY NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT WORKING CAPITAL OR CASH LIQUIDITY;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT WE ENTERED INTO AN AMENDED AND RESTATED CREDIT FACILITY IN OCTOBER 2011 WITH A CURRENT MAXIMUM AVAILABILITY OF \$200 MILLION. HOWEVER, OUR BORROWING AND LETTER OF CREDIT AVAILABILITY IS SUBJECT TO OUR HAVING QUALIFIED COLLATERAL, INCLUDING ELIGIBLE CASH, ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND INVENTORIES THAT VARY IN AMOUNT FROM TIME TO TIME. ACCORDINGLY, OUR BORROWING AND LETTER OF CREDIT AVAILABILITY AT ANY TIME MAY BE LESS THAN \$200 MILLION; WE HAD \$132.3 MILLION OF BORROWING AND LETTER OF CREDIT AVAILABILITY UNDER OUR CREDIT FACILITY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012, OF WHICH \$58.2 MILLION WAS UTILIZED FOR OUTSTANDING LETTERS OF CREDIT. ALSO, THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE UNDER THE CREDIT FACILITY MAY BE INCREASED TO \$300 MILLION, SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE COLLATERAL AND LENDER PARTICIPATION. NONETHELESS, IF WE DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT COLLATERAL OR IF WE ARE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY LENDERS WILLING TO INCREASE THEIR COMMITMENTS OR JOIN OUR CREDIT FACILITY, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO INCREASE THE CREDIT FACILITY OR THE AVAILABILITY OF BORROWINGS WHEN WE MAY NEED OR WANT TO DO SO;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES OUR CURRENT OBSERVATIONS AS TO ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRY CONDITIONS. RECENT ECONOMIC DATA HAS BEEN MIXED AND IMPROVEMENTS, IF ANY, IN THE U.S. ECONOMY OR IN THE TRUCKING OR TRAVEL CENTER INDUSTRIES MAY NOT CONTINUE, AND OUR FUEL AND NONFUEL SALES VOLUMES MAY NOT INCREASE BUT MAY DECLINE;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES SOME OF OUR BELIEFS WITH RESPECT TO VARIOUS PENDING LITIGATION, AND THESE STATEMENTS MAY IMPLY THAT WE WILL PREVAIL IN OUR LITIGATION. IN FACT, WE MAY BE UNABLE TO PREVAIL IN OUR PENDING LITIGATION AND ANY SETTLEMENT OR ADVERSE RULING MAY HAVE A MATERIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR BUSINESS. ALSO, THE LEGAL AND OTHER EXPENSES WE MAY INCUR IN CONNECTION WITH LITIGATION WILL DEPEND, IN PART, UPON ACTIONS TAKEN BY OTHER PARTIES, WHICH ACTIONS ARE NOT WITHIN OUR CONTROL, AND THESE LITIGATION COSTS MAY HAVE A MATERIAL ADVERSE EFFECT ON OUR BUSINESS;

WE MAY NOT REALIZE OUR EXPECTATION THAT WE WILL BENEFIT FINANCIALLY BY PARTICIPATING IN AFFILIATES INSURANCE COMPANY, OR AIC;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT WE BELIEVE THAT OUR CONTINUING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HPT, REIT MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH LLC, OR RMR, AIC AND THEIR AFFILIATED AND RELATED PERSONS AND ENTITIES BENEFIT US AND PROVIDE US WITH ADVANTAGES IN OPERATING AND GROWING OUR BUSINESS. IN FACT, THE ADVANTAGES WE BELIEVE WE MAY REALIZE FROM THESE RELATIONSHIPS MAY NOT MATERIALIZE;

WE STATE IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT THAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING AN AGREEMENT WITH SHELL OIL PRODUCTS US, OR SHELL, TO CONSTRUCT A

Table of Contents

NETWORK OF NATURAL GAS FUELING LANES AT CERTAIN OF OUR TRAVEL CENTERS ALONG THE U.S. INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM. WE DO NOT HAVE A BINDING AGREEMENT WITH SHELL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NATURAL GAS FUELING LANES AT OUR TRAVEL CENTERS. MATERIAL TERMS CONTINUE TO BE NEGOTIATED AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN AGREED BETWEEN US AND SHELL. WE AND SHELL MAY NOT ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON ALL TERMS AND A BINDING AGREEMENT MAY NEVER BE ENTERED. FOR THESE REASONS, WE CAN PROVIDE NO ASSURANCE REGARDING THE FINAL TERMS OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH SHELL OR THAT ANY SUCH AGREEMENT WILL BE ENTERED. NATURAL GAS FUELING FOR THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY IS NEW AND WE CANNOT ASSURE YOU THAT A TRUCKER MARKET FOR NATURAL GAS WILL DEVELOP, AND WE OR SHELL MAY ABANDON THIS PROJECT. LAND USE REGULATIONS AT OUR TRAVEL CENTERS MAY PREVENT INSTALLATION OF NATURAL GAS FUELING LANES OR THE INSTALLATION OR OPERATION OF NATURAL GAS FUELING LANES MAY REQUIRE REGULATORY APPROVALS AND SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT AND TRAINED PERSONNEL WHICH MAY NOT BE TIMELY AVAILABLE OR MAY BE MORE COSTLY THAN WE EXPECT. THE DISTANCES WHICH MAY BE COVERED BY NATURAL GAS POWERED VEHICLES DEPEND UPON TECHNOLOGIES WHICH ARE BEING DEVELOPED, AND IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO CROSS THE UNITED STATES USING NATURAL GAS FUEL PURCHASED AT ONLY OUR LOCATIONS. FOR THESE AND OTHER REASONS, THE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY FOR NATURAL GAS POWERED TRUCKS TO TRAVEL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES MAY REQUIRE MORE TRAVEL CENTER LOCATIONS THAN WE HAVE OR ARE ABLE TO CREATE;

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT IN JANUARY 2013 WE COMPLETED A SALE OF \$110 MILLION AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF OUR 8.25% SENIOR NOTES DUE IN 2028, RECEIVED NET PROCEEDS OF APPROXIMATELY \$105.2 MILLION AFTER UNDERWRITER DISCOUNTS AND COMMISSIONS AND OTHER OFFERING EXPENSES AND EXPECT TO USE THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE SENIOR NOTES FOR GENERAL CORPORATE PURPOSES, INCLUDING ACQUISITIONS, FUNDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR EXISTING TRAVEL CENTER BUSINESS AND OTHER EXPANSION ACTIVITIES. THESE STATEMENTS MAY IMPLY THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO EMPLOY THE NET PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE SENIOR NOTES IN INVESTMENTS THAT WILL PROVIDE US A NET RETURN IN EXCESS OF THE INTEREST PAYABLE WITH RESPECT TO THE SENIOR NOTES. IN FACT, WE MAY NOT SUCCEED IN MAKING INVESTMENTS THAT GENERATE RETURNS AND WE MAY BE REQUIRED TO USE THE PROCEEDS FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES OR OTHER EXPANSION ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS TO FUND WORKING CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS OR TO FUND OPERATING LOSSES IN OUR BUSINESS; AND

THIS ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT GIVEN OUR PROFITABILITY THE PAST TWO YEARS AND OUR CURRENT EXPECTATIONS, WE BELIEVE IT IS REASONABLY LIKELY THAT OUR ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING OUR TAX VALUATION ALLOWANCE WILL CHANGE IN THE FUTURE. THIS MAY IMPLY THAT WE WILL BE PROFITABLE IN 2013 AND GENERALLY CONTINUE TO BE PROFITABLE THEREAFTER FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HOWEVER, THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE WE WILL BE PROFITABLE IN 2013 OR ANY TIME THEREAFTER AND OUR ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING OUR TAX ALLOWANCE MAY NOT CHANGE.

Table of Contents

THESE AND OTHER UNEXPECTED RESULTS MAY BE CAUSED BY VARIOUS FACTORS, SOME OF WHICH ARE BEYOND OUR CONTROL, INCLUDING:

THE IMPACT OF CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY AND THE CAPITAL MARKETS ON US, OUR CUSTOMERS AND OUR FRANCHISEES;

COMPLIANCE WITH, AND CHANGES TO, FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS, ACCOUNTING RULES, TAX RATES AND SIMILAR MATTERS;

COMPETITION WITHIN THE TRAVEL CENTER INDUSTRY;

FUTURE FUEL PRICE INCREASES, FUEL PRICE VOLATILITY OR OTHER FACTORS MAY CAUSE US TO NEED MORE WORKING CAPITAL TO MAINTAIN OUR INVENTORIES AND CARRY OUR ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE THAN WE NOW EXPECT;

ACQUISITIONS MAY SUBJECT US TO ADDITIONAL OR GREATER RISKS THAN OUR CONTINUING OPERATIONS, INCLUDING THE ASSUMPTION OF UNKNOWN LIABILITIES;

MOST OF OUR TRUCKING CUSTOMERS TRANSACT BUSINESS WITH US BY USE OF FUEL CARDS, WHICH ARE ISSUED BY THIRD PARTY FUEL CARD COMPANIES. THE FUEL CARD INDUSTRY HAS ONLY A FEW SIGNIFICANT PARTICIPANTS. FUEL CARD COMPANIES FACILITATE PAYMENTS TO US, AND CHARGE US FEES FOR THESE SERVICES. COMPETITION, OR LACK THEREOF, AMONG THE FUEL CARD COMPANIES MAY RESULT IN FUTURE INCREASES IN OUR TRANSACTION FEE EXPENSES OR WORKING CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS, OR BOTH;

IN THE PAST, INCREASES IN FUEL PRICES HAVE REDUCED THE DEMAND FOR THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT WE SELL BECAUSE HIGH FUEL PRICES MAY HAVE ENCOURAGED FUEL CONSERVATION, DIRECTED FREIGHT BUSINESS AWAY FROM TRUCKING OR OTHERWISE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE BUSINESS OF OUR CUSTOMERS. FUTURE INCREASES IN FUEL PRICES MAY HAVE SIMILAR AND OTHER ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OUR BUSINESS AND SOME OF THESE PAST CONSEQUENCES MAY CONTINUE, WHICH MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BUSINESS EVEN IF FUEL PRICES DO NOT INCREASE;

OUR SUPPLIERS MAY BE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT TERMS FOR OUR PURCHASES ON CREDIT. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO PURCHASE GOODS ON REASONABLE CREDIT TERMS, OUR REQUIRED WORKING CAPITAL MAY INCREASE AND WE MAY INCUR MATERIAL LOSSES. IN TIMES OF RISING FUEL AND NONFUEL PRICES OUR SUPPLIERS MAY BE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO INCREASE THE CREDIT AMOUNTS THEY EXTEND TO US, WHICH MAY REQUIRE US TO INCREASE OUR WORKING CAPITAL INVESTMENT. ALSO, IN LIGHT OF OUR HISTORICAL OPERATING LOSSES, THE AVAILABILITY AND THE TERMS OF ANY CREDIT WE MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ARE UNCERTAIN;

WE ARE ROUTINELY INVOLVED IN LITIGATION AND OTHER LEGAL MATTERS INCIDENTAL TO THE ORDINARY COURSE OF OUR BUSINESS. DISCOVERY AND COURT DECISIONS DURING LITIGATION OFTEN HAVE UNANTICIPATED RESULTS. LITIGATION IS USUALLY EXPENSIVE AND DISTRACTING TO MANAGEMENT. WE CAN PROVIDE NO ASSURANCE AS TO THE OUTCOME OF ANY OF THE LITIGATION MATTERS IN WHICH WE ARE OR MAY BECOME INVOLVED;

Table of Contents

ACTS OF TERRORISM, GEOPOLITICAL RISKS, WARS, OUTBREAKS OF SO CALLED PANDEMICS OR OTHER MANMADE OR NATURAL DISASTERS BEYOND OUR CONTROL MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR OPERATING RESULTS;

ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THAT WE BENEFIT FROM OUR CONTINUING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HPT, RMR AND THEIR AFFILIATED AND RELATED PERSONS AND ENTITIES, ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH OUR MANAGING DIRECTORS, HPT, RMR, AIC AND THEIR AFFILIATED AND RELATED PERSONS AND ENTITIES MAY PRESENT A CONTRARY PERCEPTION OR RESULT IN LITIGATION;

AS A RESULT OF CERTAIN TRADING IN OUR SHARES DURING 2007, WE EXPERIENCED AN OWNERSHIP CHANGE AS DEFINED BY SECTION 382 OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, OR THE CODE; CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE UNABLE TO USE OUR NET OPERATING LOSS GENERATED IN 2007 TO OFFSET ANY FUTURE TAXABLE INCOME WE MAY GENERATE. IF WE EXPERIENCE ADDITIONAL OWNERSHIP CHANGES, AS DEFINED IN THE CODE, OUR NET OPERATING LOSSES GENERATED AFTER 2007 COULD ALSO BE SUBJECT TO USAGE LIMITATIONS; AND

OUR LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY AGREEMENT AND BYLAWS AND CERTAIN OF OUR OTHER AGREEMENTS INCLUDE VARIOUS PROVISIONS WHICH MAY DETER A CHANGE OF CONTROL OF US AND, AS A RESULT, OUR SHAREHOLDERS MAY BE UNABLE TO REALIZE A TAKE OVER PREMIUM FOR THEIR SHARES.

WE ACCUMULATED A SIGNIFICANT DEFICIT DURING THE YEARS 2007 THROUGH 2010. ALTHOUGH WE GENERATED NET INCOME FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2012, AND OUR PLANS ARE INTENDED TO GENERATE NET INCOME IN FUTURE PERIODS, THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE THAT THESE PLANS WILL SUCCEED.

RESULTS THAT DIFFER FROM THOSE STATED OR IMPLIED BY OUR FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS MAY ALSO BE CAUSED BY VARIOUS CHANGES IN OUR BUSINESS OR MARKET CONDITIONS AS DESCRIBED MORE FULLY UNDER ITEM 1A. "RISK FACTORS" AND ELSEWHERE IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT.

YOU SHOULD NOT PLACE UNDUE RELIANCE UPON FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS. EXCEPT AS REQUIRED BY LAW, WE UNDERTAKE NO OBLIGATION TO UPDATE OR REVISE ANY FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENT AS A RESULT OF NEW INFORMATION, FUTURE EVENTS OR OTHERWISE.

Table of Contents

TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC
2012 FORM 10-K ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

| | Page |
|---|-----------|
| <u>PART I</u> | |
| <u>Item 1.</u> <u>Business</u> | 9 |
| <u>Item 1A.</u> <u>Risk Factors</u> | <u>25</u> |
| <u>Item 1B.</u> <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u> | <u>39</u> |
| <u>Item 2.</u> <u>Properties</u> | <u>39</u> |
| <u>Item 3.</u> <u>Legal Proceedings</u> | <u>41</u> |
| <u>Item 4.</u> <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u> | <u>41</u> |
| <u>PART II</u> | |
| <u>Item 5.</u> <u>Market for Our Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u> | <u>41</u> |
| <u>Item 6.</u> <u>Selected Financial Data</u> | <u>42</u> |
| <u>Item 7.</u> <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> | <u>43</u> |
| <u>Item 7A.</u> <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> | <u>63</u> |
| <u>Item 8.</u> <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u> | <u>64</u> |
| <u>Item 9.</u> <u>Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u> | <u>64</u> |
| <u>Item 9A.</u> <u>Controls and Procedures</u> | <u>64</u> |
| <u>Item 9B.</u> <u>Other Information</u> | <u>64</u> |

PART III

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| <u>Item 10.</u> | <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u> | <u>65</u> |
| <u>Item 11.</u> | <u>Executive Compensation</u> | <u>65</u> |
| <u>Item 12.</u> | <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Shareholder Matters</u> | <u>65</u> |
| <u>Item 13.</u> | <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u> | <u>65</u> |
| <u>Item 14.</u> | <u>Principal Accounting Fees and Services</u> | <u>65</u> |
| <u>PART IV</u> | | |
| <u>Item 15.</u> | <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u> | <u>66</u> |

SIGNATURES

Table of Contents

PART I

Item 1. Business

General

We are a limited liability company formed under Delaware law on October 10, 2006, as a wholly owned subsidiary of Hospitality Properties Trust, or HPT. From that time through January 31, 2007, we conducted no business activities. On January 31, 2007, HPT acquired TravelCenters of America, Inc., our predecessor, restructured this acquired business and distributed all of our then outstanding common shares to the shareholders of HPT. In this Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, or this Annual Report, we sometimes refer to these transactions as the HPT Transaction, refer to the distribution of our shares in connection with the HPT Transaction as our spin off and refer to HPT and the subsidiaries of HPT from which we lease certain properties collectively as HPT.

Business Overview

We operate and franchise travel centers primarily along the U.S. interstate highway system. Our customers include trucking fleets and their drivers, independent truck drivers and motorists. As of December 31, 2012, our business included 243 travel centers located in 41 states in the U.S. and the province of Ontario, Canada. Our travel centers included 171 operated under the "TravelCenters of America," "TA" or related brand names, or the TA brand, including 151 that we operated and 20 that franchisees operated, and 72 that were operated under the "Petro Stopping Centers" and "Petro" brand names, or the Petro brand, including 57 that we operated and 15 that franchisees operated. Of our 243 travel centers at December 31, 2012, we owned 25, we leased or managed 189, including 185 that we leased from HPT, and franchisees owned, or leased from others, 29. We sublease to franchisees six of the travel centers we lease from HPT. As of December 31, 2012, we had entered into agreements to purchase four additional travel centers, one of which had been owned and operated by a franchisee under the TA brand. During January and February of 2013, we completed two of these acquisitions and two acquisitions are expected to close in the first half 2013. The pending transactions are subject to conditions and, accordingly, may be delayed, their terms may be changed or they may not be completed.

Many of our travel centers were originally developed years ago when prime real estate locations along the interstate highway system were more readily available than they are today, which we believe would make it difficult to replicate our business. We believe that our nationwide locations provide an advantage to large trucking fleets, particularly long haul trucking fleets, by enabling them to reduce the number of their suppliers by routing their trucks through our locations from coast to coast.

We offer a broad range of products and services, including diesel fuel and gasoline, truck repair and maintenance services, full service restaurants, more than 20 different brands of quick serve restaurants, or QSRs, travel and convenience stores and various driver amenities.

The U.S. travel center and truck stop industry in which we operate consists of travel centers, truck stops, diesel fuel outlets and similar properties. We believe that although the travel center and truck stop industry is highly fragmented generally, with in excess of 6,000 travel centers and truck stops in the U.S., the largest trucking fleets tend to purchase the majority of their over the road fuel from us and our largest competitors.

History

Our Predecessor. Our predecessor was formed in December 1992. At the time of the HPT Transaction, our predecessor's business included 163 travel centers, of which 140 were operated by our

Table of Contents

predecessor, 10 were operated by franchisees on sites leased from our predecessor and 13 were operated by franchisees on sites they owned.

The HPT Transaction. We commenced business on January 31, 2007. In order to govern relations before and after our spin off, we entered into a transaction agreement with HPT and Reit Management & Research LLC, or RMR. As a result of the HPT Transaction, our spin off and the related transaction agreement, HPT acquired 146 travel centers and certain other assets previously held by our predecessor and we entered a lease of these assets with HPT, which we refer to as the TA Lease. We owned the remaining assets of our predecessor and remained obligated for our predecessor's liabilities. On January 31, 2007, HPT distributed all of our then outstanding shares to its shareholders. Other material effects of the HPT Transaction that have continuing effects on us are summarized as follows:

We agreed that for so long as we are a tenant of HPT we will not permit: the acquisition by any person or group of beneficial ownership of 9.8% or more of the voting shares or the power to direct the management and policies of us or any of our subsidiary tenants or guarantors under our leases with HPT; the sale of a material part of our assets or those of any such tenant or guarantor; or the cessation of certain continuing directors constituting a majority of the board of directors of us or any such tenant or guarantor.

We provided HPT a right of first refusal to purchase, lease, mortgage or otherwise finance any interest we own in a travel center before we sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise finance that travel center with another party.

We granted HPT and other entities to which RMR provides management services a right of first refusal to acquire or finance any real estate of the types in which they invest before we do.

We entered into a management and shared services agreement with RMR.

We agreed to indemnify HPT for liabilities relating to our business and operations for periods before and after our spin off.

The Petro Acquisition. On May 30, 2007, we acquired Petro Stopping Centers, L.P., or Petro, which operated or franchised 69 travel centers along the U.S. interstate highway system. We refer to this transaction as the Petro Acquisition. Simultaneously with the Petro Acquisition, HPT acquired the real estate of 40 Petro centers and we leased these 40 locations from HPT, which we refer to as the Petro Lease and which together with the TA Lease we refer to as the HPT Leases. In addition to the leasehold for these 40 locations, the Petro assets we acquired included the contract rights as franchisor of 24 Petro travel centers and certain other assets.

Rent Deferral Agreement and Amendment Agreement. In August 2008, we entered a rent deferral agreement with HPT. Under the terms of the deferral agreement we deferred a total of \$150 million of rent payments through December 31, 2010. In January 2011, we and HPT entered an Amendment Agreement, or the Amendment Agreement, that amended the HPT Leases and our rent deferral agreement with HPT. This agreement, among other things, reduced the minimum annual rent payable to HPT, extended the due date for the \$150 million of rent that we previously deferred and ceased interest charges on that deferred rent, as further described under the heading "Our Leases With HPT" below.

Other Significant Activities. Since the time of the Petro Acquisition, we have executed a number of transactions and initiatives, including:

In July and August 2007, we issued a total of 5,335,090 common shares in a public offering, for net proceeds of \$205 million after underwriters discount and commissions and other costs of the offering.

Table of Contents

In May 2011, we issued 10,000,000 common shares in a public offering, raising proceeds of approximately \$53.1 million after underwriters' discounts and commissions and other costs of the offering at the public offering price.

In October 2011, we entered into an amended and restated loan and security agreement, or the credit facility, with a group of commercial banks. The credit facility amended and restated our preexisting credit facility we had entered in November 2007. Under the credit facility, a maximum of \$200 million may be drawn, repaid and redrawn until maturity in October 2016. The availability of this maximum amount is subject to limits based on qualified collateral. Subject to available collateral and lender participation, the maximum amount may be increased to \$300 million. The credit facility may be used for general business purposes and provides for the issuance of letters of credit. Generally, no principal payments are due until maturity.

In January 2013, we sold \$110 million aggregate principal amount of our 8.25% Senior Notes due 2028, or the Senior Notes, for net proceeds of approximately \$105.2 million after underwriters' discounts and other offering expenses. The Senior Notes are unsecured. We may, at our option, at any time after January 15, 2016, redeem some or all of the Senior Notes by paying 100% of the principal amount of the Senior Notes to be redeemed plus accrued but unpaid interest, if any.

Our Growth Strategy

Acquisitions and Development. Pressure from difficult economic and industry conditions of the past several years has caused some, and may cause further, financial challenges for some travel center operators and may in the future present opportunities to acquire travel centers at attractive prices. We believe these conditions led to our acquisitions during 2011 of six travel centers and two properties ancillary to existing travel centers for an aggregate amount of \$38.0 million. During 2012, we purchased 10 travel centers for an aggregate amount of \$46.6 million and we also acquired the businesses of our franchisees at four travel centers we had previously subleased to franchisees for an aggregate amount of \$5.7 million. Further, as of December 31, 2012, we had entered into agreements to purchase four additional travel centers, including one then operated by a franchisee, for an aggregate amount of \$20.3 million. Two of these four acquisitions closed during January and February 2013 and two acquisitions are expected to close in the first half of 2013. The pending transactions are subject to conditions and, accordingly, may be delayed, their terms may be changed or they may not be completed. We intend to continue to selectively pursue acquisitions of additional travel centers and businesses.

Existing Properties. We believe we have opportunities to increase revenues and profits through continued investment in our existing properties, including those travel centers we acquired during 2011 and 2012. These opportunities include projects such as parking lot expansions, construction of additional truck repair bays, restaurant remodeling, the installation of additional QSR offerings, installation of diesel exhaust fluid dispensers and possible expansion of offerings to include items not previously offered by us, such as natural gas refueling as noted below.

Natural Gas Fueling. In June 2012, we entered into a memorandum of understanding, and currently are negotiating a possible agreement, with Shell Oil Products US, or Shell, for the construction by Shell of a network of natural gas refueling lanes at certain of our travel centers located along the U.S. interstate highway system. We do not have a binding agreement with Shell for the construction of natural gas fueling lanes at our travel centers. Material terms continue to be negotiated and have not yet been agreed between us and Shell. We and Shell may not achieve agreement on all terms and a binding, definitive agreement may never be entered.

Table of Contents

Franchising. In 2011, we added four franchise sites. Two of these sites are located in Virginia and one site is located in each of Alabama and Tennessee. We may expand our business through franchising.

Our Travel Center Locations

At December 31, 2012, our travel centers consisted of:

179 travel centers leased from HPT and operated by us;

Six travel centers leased from HPT and subleased to and operated by our franchisees;

25 travel centers we own and operate;

Two travel centers that we operate on sites owned by parties other than HPT;

Two travel centers we operate for a joint venture in which we own a minority interest; and

29 travel centers that are operated by our franchisees on sites they own or lease from parties other than us.

Our travel centers include 171 that are operated under the TA brand and 72 that are operated under the Petro brand. Our typical travel center includes:

over 25 acres of land with parking for 190 tractor trailers and 100 cars;

a full service restaurant and one or more QSRs that we operate as a franchisee under various brands;

a truck repair facility and parts store;

multiple diesel and gasoline fueling points, including diesel exhaust fluid at the diesel lanes; and

a travel and convenience store, game room, lounge and other amenities for professional truck drivers and motorists.

Substantially all of our travel centers are full service sites located on or near an interstate highway exit and offer fuel and nonfuel products and services 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

Properties. The physical layouts of our travel centers vary from site to site. The majority of the developed acreage at our travel centers consists of truck and car fuel islands, separate truck and car parking lots, a main building that contains a full service restaurant and one or more QSRs, a travel and convenience store, a truck maintenance and repair shop and other amenities. Most of our TA locations have one building with separate service areas and most of our Petro locations have several separate buildings.

Product and Service Offering. Our travel centers offer a broad range of products and services designed to appeal to our customers, including:

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Fuel. We sell diesel fuel at separate truck fueling lanes at our travel centers. We also sell branded and unbranded gasoline at motorist fuel islands. As of December 31, 2012, we offered branded gasoline at 210 of our 243 travel centers and unbranded gasoline at 15 of our travel centers. We did not offer gasoline at 18 of our travel centers.

Diesel Exhaust Fluid. Diesel exhaust fluid, or DEF, is an additive that is required by most truck engines manufactured after 2010. As of December 31, 2012, we offered DEF from dispensers on the diesel fueling island at 205 of our travel centers and we expect that DEF will be available on the diesel fuel island at our remaining travel centers during 2013.

Table of Contents

Full Service Restaurants and QSRs. Most of our travel centers have both full service restaurants and QSRs that offer customers a wide variety of nationally recognized branded food choices. The substantial majority of our full service restaurants are operated under our Iron Skillet® and Country Pride® brands and offer menu table service and buffets. We also operate more than 20 different brands of QSRs, including Arby's®, Burger King®, Dunkin' Donuts®, Pizza Hut®, Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits®, Starbuck's Coffee®, Subway® and Taco Bell®. As of December 31, 2012, 217 of our travel centers included a full service restaurant, 152 of our travel centers offered at least one QSR, and there were a total of 293 QSRs in our 243 travel centers. At our company operated sites we operate substantially all of these QSRs as a franchisee. The restaurants and QSRs in travel centers that we operate are staffed by our employees.

Truck Service. As of December 31, 2012, we had truck repair and maintenance facilities at all but 13 of our travel centers. The typical repair and maintenance facility has between three and six service bays and is staffed by our mechanics and service technicians. These shops generally operate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and offer extensive maintenance and emergency repair and road services, ranging from basic services such as oil changes and tire repair to specialty services such as diagnostics and repair of air conditioning, brakes and electrical systems. Our repair and maintenance services are generally covered by our warranty. Most of our truck repair and maintenance facilities provide some warranty work on Daimler Trucks North America, or Daimler, brand trucks through our participation in the Freightliner ServicePoint® and Western Star ServicePoint® programs, as described under the heading "Operations Daimler Agreement" below.

Roadside Repair. RoadSquad® is a roadside truck service program that operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week and is comprised of a fleet of approximately 400 service trucks we own. Our service trucks are positioned at our locations and centrally dispatched to assist customers with repairs when they are unable to bring their truck to our travel center due to a break down. RoadSquad Connect™ is our centralized call center that operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week to dispatch our RoadSquad® vehicles and third party roadside service providers. RoadSquad Connect™ includes service providers in every state except Alaska and Hawaii with a total of nearly 1,100 locations, including our travel centers with truck service facilities.

Travel and Convenience Stores. At each of our travel centers we offer a travel and convenience store that offers merchandise to truck drivers, motorists, recreational vehicle operators and bus drivers and passengers. Our travel and convenience stores have a selection of over 4,000 items, including packaged food and snack items, beverages, non-prescription drug and beauty supplies, batteries, automobile accessories, and music and video products. Each location also has a "to go" bar offering fresh brewed coffee, hot dogs, prepared sandwiches and other prepared foods. Our stores also sell items specifically designed for the truck driver's "on the road" lifestyle, including laundry supplies, clothing, truck accessories and a large selection of electronics.

Additional Driver Services. We believe that trucking fleets can improve the retention and recruitment of truck drivers by directing them to visit high quality, full service travel centers. We offer commercial truck and other customer loyalty programs, the principal program being the UltraOne® Club, that are similar to the frequent shopper programs offered by other retailers. Drivers receive points for diesel fuel purchases and for spending on selected nonfuel products and services. These points can be redeemed for discounts on nonfuel products and services at our travel centers. In addition, we publish a magazine called RoadKing® which includes articles and advertising of interest to professional truck drivers. We try to provide a consistently high level of service and amenities to professional truck drivers at all of our travel centers, making our travel centers an attractive choice for trucking fleets. Some of our travel centers offer casino gaming. We are an authorized Verizon Wireless dealer and currently offer Verizon Wireless

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

products and services at 43 of our travel centers. Most of our travel centers provide truck drivers the amenities listed below:

specialized business services, including an information center where drivers can send and receive faxes, overnight mail and other communications;

the Reserve-It™ program allows drivers to reserve a parking space in advance of arriving at a travel center;

a banking desk where drivers can cash checks and receive funds transfers from fleet operators,

wi-fi internet access;

a video game room;

a laundry area with washers and dryers;

private showers;

exercise facilities; and

areas designated for truck drivers only, including a theater or big screen television room with a video player and comfortable seating.

Operating Segment

We manage our business on the basis of one operating segment. Please refer to the consolidated financial statements included in Item 15 of this Annual Report for revenue, operating profit and asset data. We have only a single travel center located in a foreign country, Canada, and the revenues and assets related to our operations in Canada are not material. The following table sets forth the composition of our total revenues by type for each of the three years ended December 31, 2012.

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Revenues: | | | |
| Fuel | 83.0% | 83.7% | 80.4% |
| Nonfuel | 16.8% | 16.1% | 19.4% |
| Rent and royalties from franchisees | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Total revenues | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |

Operations

Fuel. We have numerous sources for our diesel fuel and gasoline supply, including nearly all of the major and large oil companies operating in the U.S. We purchase diesel fuel from various suppliers at rates that fluctuate with market prices and generally are reset daily, and we sell fuel to our customers at prices that we establish daily. By establishing diesel fuel supply relationships with several alternate suppliers for most locations, we believe we are able to effectively create competition for our purchases among various diesel fuel suppliers. We also believe that purchasing arrangements with multiple diesel fuel suppliers may help us avoid product outages during times of diesel fuel supply disruptions. At some locations, however, there are very few suppliers for diesel fuel in that market and we may have only one viable supplier. We have single sources of supply for gasoline at each of our travel centers that offer branded gasoline; we generally purchase gasoline from

multiple sources for our travel centers that offer unbranded gasoline. We offer biodiesel at a number of our travel centers and have a limited number of suppliers for this product at those sites at which we sell biodiesel.

Table of Contents

Generally our fuel purchases are delivered directly from suppliers' terminals to our travel centers. We do not contract to purchase substantial quantities of fuel to hold as inventory. We generally have less than three days of diesel fuel and gasoline inventory at our travel centers. We are exposed to price increases and interruptions in supply. We believe our exposure to market price increases for diesel fuel and gasoline is partially mitigated by the significant amount of our diesel fuel and gasoline sales that are sold under arrangements that include pricing formulae that reset daily and are indexed to market prices and by generally not purchasing fuel for delivery other than on the date of purchase. We historically have not engaged in any fixed or hedged price fuel contracts with customers.

Nonfuel products. We have many sources for the large variety of nonfuel products that we sell. We have developed strategic relationships with several suppliers of key nonfuel products, including Daimler for truck parts, Bridgestone/Firestone Tire Sales Company and Michelin North America, Inc. for truck tires, McLane Company, Inc. for convenience store and tobacco products and ExxonMobil Oil Corporation for lubricants. We believe that our relationships with these and our other suppliers are satisfactory. We maintain two distribution centers to distribute certain nonfuel and nonperishable products to our travel centers using a combination of contract carriers and our fleet of trucks and trailers. We believe these distribution centers allow us to purchase inventory and supplies at lower total acquisition costs. These warehouses are leased and include a total of approximately 181,400 square feet of space.

Daimler Agreement. We are party to an agreement with Daimler that extends to July 2019 and under which most of our locations are authorized providers of warranty repairs to Daimler's customers. Daimler is a leading manufacturer of heavy trucks in North America under the Freightliner and Western Star brand names. Other than at our sites in Texas, all but one of our TA and Petro truck service locations are or are expected to be authorized providers of repair work and specified warranty repairs to Daimler's customers through the Freightliner ServicePoint® program and most of our Petro Sites are or will be authorized providers of similar services through the Western Star ServicePoint® program. Most of our TA and Petro truck maintenance and repair facilities are part of Freightliner's 24 hour customer assistance database for emergency and roadside repair referrals and we have access generally to Daimler's parts distribution, service and technical information systems.

Our Leases With HPT

We have two leases with HPT, the TA Lease for 145 travel centers, which became effective on January 31, 2007, and the Petro Lease for 40 Petro travel centers, which became effective on May 30, 2007. Two of our subsidiaries are the tenants under the leases, and we, and in the case of our TA Lease certain of our subsidiaries, guarantee the tenants' obligations under the leases. These leases have subsequently been amended, including most recently on January 31, 2011, the date on which we entered into the Amendment Agreement with HPT. The following are summaries of the material terms of these leases, as amended.

Term. The TA Lease expires on December 31, 2022. The Petro Lease expires on June 30, 2024, and may be extended by us for up to two additional periods of 15 years each.

Operating Costs. The HPT Leases are "triple net" leases, which require us to pay all costs incurred in the operation of the leased travel centers, including personnel, utilities, acquiring inventories, providing services to customers, insurance, paying real estate and personal property taxes, environmental related expenses, underground storage tank removal costs and ground lease payments at those travel centers at which HPT leases the property and subleases it to us.

Rent. As amended in January 2011, the TA Lease requires us to pay specified minimum rent to HPT in an amount of \$135.1 million per year for the period from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012, and an amount of \$140.1 million per year for the period commencing February 1, 2012 and

Table of Contents

continuing through December 31, 2022, and the Petro Lease requires us to pay specified minimum rent to HPT of \$54.2 million through June 30, 2024. These amounts are exclusive of the increase in minimum rent, as described in the next paragraph, that is payable under the HPT Leases as a result of HPT purchasing qualifying improvements made to the leased properties.

In addition to the \$125 million described below under "Improvements", under the HPT Leases, we may request that HPT purchase approved renovations, improvements and equipment additions we make at the leased travel centers, in return for an increase in our minimum annual rent equal to the amount paid by HPT times the greater of (i) 8.5% or (ii) a benchmark U.S. Treasury interest rate plus 3.5%. HPT is not required to purchase any improvements and we are not required to sell any improvements to HPT. As a result of these purchases, our minimum annual rent under the TA Lease and the Petro Lease has increased to \$149.0 million and \$57.7 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2012.

Starting in 2012, the TA Lease requires us to pay additional rent that is calculated as follows: an amount equal to 3% of increases in nonfuel gross revenues and 0.3% of increases in gross fuel revenues at the 145 travel centers covered by that lease over the respective gross revenue amounts for the year 2011. Additional rent attributable to fuel revenues is subject to a maximum each year calculated by reference to changes in the consumer price index. Additional rent under the TA Lease was \$1.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2012. The Petro Lease requires us to pay additional rent calculated using the same formula as in the TA Lease, except that such payments start in 2013 and are calculated using the revenues of the 40 leased Petro travel centers in excess of revenues for the year 2012 and the additional rent under the Petro Lease is subject to the waiver of payment of the first \$2.5 million of such additional rent.

On August 11, 2008, we entered a rent deferral agreement with HPT. Under the terms of the deferral agreement, through December 31, 2010, we had deferred \$150 million of rent payable to HPT, the maximum amount we were able to defer and which was contractually due to HPT by July 1, 2011. As part of the Amendment Agreement, we and HPT amended the rent deferral agreement, so that \$107.1 million of the deferred rent obligation is due on December 31, 2022, the remaining \$42.9 million of the deferred rent obligation is due on June 30, 2024, and effective January 1, 2011, interest does not accrue on our deferred rent obligation; provided, however, that the deferred rent obligation shall be accelerated and interest shall begin to accrue thereon if certain events provided in the Amendment Agreement occur, including a change of control of us.

Improvements. Under the TA Lease, we received funding from HPT for certain tenant improvements we made to properties owned by HPT with no increase in our rent payable to HPT. The amount of such funding was originally limited to \$125 million with no more than \$25 million of funding permitted in any one year; provided, however, that none of the \$125 million of tenant improvements allowance was available to be drawn after December 31, 2015. On May 12, 2008, we and HPT amended the TA Lease. This lease amendment permitted us to request funding from HPT for qualified improvements to the travel centers leased from HPT under the TA Lease on an expedited basis. As of September 30, 2010, we had received from HPT all of the \$125 million tenant improvements allowance available under the TA Lease without an increase in rent payments. Portions of this amount were discounted pursuant to the terms of the lease because we elected to receive those funds on an accelerated basis.

Maintenance and Alterations. Except for HPT's commitment to fund the tenant improvements allowance as described above, we must maintain, at our expense, the leased travel centers, including maintenance of structural and non-structural components. At the end of each lease we must surrender the leased travel centers in substantially the same condition as existed at the commencement of the lease subject to any permitted alterations and reasonable wear and tear.

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

Assignment and Subletting. HPT's consent is required for any direct or indirect assignment or sublease of any of the leased travel centers. We remain liable under the leases for subleased travel centers.

Environmental Matters. Generally, we have agreed to indemnify HPT from liabilities that may arise from any violation of any environmental law or regulation with respect to the leased travel centers.

Indemnification and Insurance. With limited exceptions, we indemnify HPT from liabilities which arise during the terms of the leases from ownership or operation of the leased travel centers. We generally must maintain commercially reasonable insurance. Our insurance coverage requirements include:

property insurance in an amount equal to the full replacement cost of at risk improvements at our leased travel centers;

business interruption insurance;

general liability insurance, including bodily injury and property damage, in amounts as are generally maintained by companies operating travel centers;

flood insurance for any travel center located in whole or in part in a flood plain;

workers' compensation insurance if required by law; and

such additional insurance as may be generally maintained by companies operating travel centers, including certain environmental insurance.

The leases generally require that HPT be named as an additional insured under our insurance policies.

Damage, Destruction or Condemnation. If any leased travel center is damaged by fire or other casualty or taken by eminent domain, we are generally obligated to rebuild. If the leased travel center cannot be restored, HPT will generally receive all insurance or taking proceeds, we are liable to HPT for any deductible or deficiency between the replacement cost and the amount of such proceeds, and the annual minimum rent will be reduced by (i) in the case of the TA Lease, at HPT's option, either 8.5% of the net proceeds paid to HPT or the fair market rental of the damaged, destroyed or condemned property, or portion thereof, as of the commencement date of the TA Lease; (ii) in the case of a casualty loss under the Petro Lease, 8.5% of the net proceeds paid to HPT plus 8.5% of the fair market value of the land; and (iii) in the case of a taking under the Petro Lease, 8.5% of the amount of the net proceeds paid to HPT.

Events of Default. Events of default under each lease include the following:

our failure to pay rent or any other amounts when due;

our failure to maintain the insurance required under the lease;

the occurrence of certain events with respect to our insolvency;

the institution of a proceeding for our bankruptcy or dissolution;

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

our failure to continuously operate any leased travel center without HPT's consent;

the acquisition by any person or group of beneficial ownership of 9.8% or more of our voting shares or the power to direct the management and policies of us or any of our subsidiary tenants or guarantors; the sale of a material part of the assets of us or any such tenant or guarantor; or the cessation of certain continuing directors constituting a majority of the board of directors of us or any such tenant or guarantor; in each case without the consent of HPT;

Table of Contents

our default under any indebtedness of \$10 million or more for the TA Lease, or \$20 million or more for the Petro Lease, that gives the holder the right to accelerate the maturity of the indebtedness; and

our failure to perform certain other covenants or agreements of the lease and the continuance thereof for a specified period of time after written notice.

Remedies. Following the occurrence of any event of default, each lease provides that, among other things, HPT may, to the extent legally permitted:

accelerate the rent;

terminate the lease; and/or

make any payment or perform any act required to be performed by us under the lease and receive from us, on demand, an amount equal to the amount so expended by HPT plus interest.

We are also obligated to reimburse HPT for all costs and expenses incurred in connection with any exercise of the foregoing remedies.

Lease Subordination. Each lease may be subordinated to any mortgages of the leased travel centers by HPT, but HPT is required to obtain nondisturbance agreements for our benefit.

Financing Limitations; Security. Without HPT's prior written consent, our tenant subsidiaries may not incur debt secured by any of their assets used in the operation of the leased travel centers; provided, however, our tenant subsidiaries may incur purchase money debt to acquire assets used in these operations and we may encumber such assets to obtain a line of credit secured by our tenant subsidiaries' receivables, inventory or certain other assets used in these operations.

Lease Termination. When a lease terminates, any equipment, furniture, fixtures, inventory and supplies at the leased travel centers that we own may be purchased by HPT at its then fair market value. Also at termination of the TA Lease, HPT has the right to license any of our software used in the operation of the leased travel centers thereunder at its then fair market value and to offer employment to employees at the leased travel centers thereunder; and under both leases we have agreed to cooperate in the transfer of permits, agreements and the like necessary for the operation of the leased travel centers thereunder.

Territorial Restrictions. Under the terms of each lease, without the consent of HPT, we generally cannot own, franchise, finance, operate, lease or manage any travel center or similar property within 75 miles in either direction along the primary interstate on which a travel center owned by HPT is located.

Non-Economic Properties. If during a lease term the continued operation of any leased travel center becomes non-economic in our reasonable determination and we and HPT cannot agree on an alternative use for the property, we may offer that travel center for sale, including the sale of HPT's interest in the property, free and clear of our leasehold interests. No sale of a travel center leased from HPT, however, may be completed without HPT's consent. In the event we obtain a bona-fide offer to purchase the property and HPT consents to the sale, the net sale proceeds received will be paid to HPT, exclusive of amounts associated with personal property, which we can elect to sell to the buyers or keep, and the annual minimum rent payable shall be reduced. In the case of the TA Lease, this reduction will be, at HPT's option, either the amount of such proceeds times 8.5% or the fair market rental for such property as of the commencement date of the lease; in the case of the Petro Lease, this reduction will be the amount of such proceeds times 8.5%. If we obtain a bona-fide offer to purchase the property but HPT does not consent to the sale of the travel center, that property will no longer be part of the lease and the minimum rent will be reduced as if the sale had been completed at the

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

amount offered. No more than a total of 15 properties subject to the TA Lease and no more than five properties subject to the Petro Lease may be offered for sale as non-economic properties during the applicable lease term.

Arbitration. Our leases with HPT also include arbitration provisions for the resolution of disputes, claims and controversies.

For further information about the HPT Leases and related amounts, see Note 16 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference. In addition, for more information about these transactions and relationships and about the risks which may arise as a result of these transactions and relationships, see elsewhere in this Annual Report, including "Warning Concerning Forward Looking Statements" and Item 1A, "Risk Factors".

Relationships with Franchisees

We have lease and franchise agreements with lessees and owners of travel centers. We collect rent and franchise, royalty and other fees under these agreements. As of December 31, 2012, 35 of our travel centers were operated by our franchisees. Six of these travel centers are leased by us from HPT and subleased by us to a franchisee. Twenty nine of these travel centers are owned, or leased from others, by our franchisees. As of December 31, 2012, one franchisee operated four locations, three operated two locations, and 25 operated one location each. The table below summarizes by state information as of December 31, 2012, regarding branding and ownership of the travel centers our franchisees operate. Similar information for the travel centers we operate is included in Item 2 of this Annual Report.

| | Brand Affiliation of Sites ⁽¹⁾ | | | Ownership of Sites By: ⁽¹⁾ | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|-----------|--|-------------------------|
| | TA | Petro | Total | HPT | Franchisee or Others |
| Alabama | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Georgia | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Illinois | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| Indiana | 1 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Iowa | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Kansas ⁽²⁾ | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 3 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 2 |
| Missouri | 2 | 2 | 4 | | 4 |
| North Carolina | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| North Dakota | | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| Ohio | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 3 |
| Oregon | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Pennsylvania | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 2 |
| Tennessee | 3 | | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Texas | 2 | | 2 | 2 | |
| Virginia | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 3 |
| Wisconsin | 1 | 2 | 3 | | 3 |
| Total | 20 | 15 | 35 | 6 | 29 |

(1) Includes only sites operated by our franchisees and excludes sites we operate.

(2) During February 2013 we acquired and began to operate one travel center in Kansas that had been operated under the TA brand by a franchisee.

Table of Contents

Franchise Agreements

Material provisions of our franchise agreements typically include the following:

Initial Franchise Fee. The initial franchise fee for a new franchise is \$1,000,000.

Term of Agreement. The initial term of a franchise agreement is generally ten to fifteen years. Our TA franchise agreements generally provide for two five year renewals on the terms then being offered to prospective franchisees at the time of the franchise renewal and our Petro franchise agreements generally provide for two five year renewals on the same terms and conditions as the expiring agreements. As of December 31, 2012, our franchise agreements had an average remaining term excluding renewal options of six years and an average remaining term including renewal options of 14 years.

Protected Territory. Under the terms of our franchise agreements for TA travel centers, generally we have agreed not to operate, or allow another person to operate, a travel center or travel center business that uses the TA brand in a specified territory for that TA branded franchise location. Under the terms of our franchise agreements for Petro travel centers, generally we have agreed not to operate, or allow another person to operate, a travel center or travel center business that uses the Petro brand in a specified territory for that Petro branded franchise location.

Restrictive Covenants. Generally our franchisees may not operate any travel center or truck stop related business under a franchise agreement, licensing agreement or marketing plan or system of another person or entity. If the franchisee owns the franchised premises, generally for a two year period after termination of our franchise agreement the franchisee may not operate the premises with a competitive brand.

Fuel Purchases, Sales and Royalties. Our franchise agreements require the franchisee to pay us a royalty fee per gallon of fuel sold based on sales of certain fuels at the franchised travel center, unless they purchase their fuel inventory from us. We also purchase receivables generated by some of our franchisees in connection with sales to common trucking fleet customers through our proprietary billing system on a non-recourse basis in return for a fee. The franchise agreements in effect until 2012 for franchisees who subleased ten travel centers from us required the franchisees to purchase all of their diesel fuel from us. That requirement was removed from the franchise agreements entered in 2012 upon the expiration of the terms of the previous franchise agreements. During 2012, we purchased the operations of four of these previously franchised travel centers. The remaining six franchisees now have the option to purchase their fuel inventory from us and, as of December 31, 2012, all but one have elected to purchase fuel primarily from third parties.

Nonfuel Product Offerings. Franchisees are required to operate their travel centers in conformity with guidelines that we establish and offer any products and services that we deem to be a standard product or service in our centers.

Royalty Payments on Nonfuel Revenues. Franchisees are required to pay us a royalty fee generally equal to between 2% and 4% of nonfuel revenues, in some cases up to a threshold amount, with a lower percentage fee payable on amounts in excess of the threshold amount and on revenues from branded QSRs.

Advertising, Promotion and Image Enhancement. Our franchisees are required to make additional payments to us as contribution to the applicable brand wide advertising, marketing and promotional expenses we incur.

Termination/Nonrenewal. Generally, we may terminate or refuse to renew a franchise agreement for default by the franchisee. Generally, we may also refuse to renew if we determine that renewal

Table of Contents

would not be in our economic interest or, in the case of TA franchisees and Petro franchisees under our current form of franchise agreement, if the franchisee will not agree to the terms in our then current form of franchise agreement.

Rights of First Refusal. During the term of each franchise agreement, we generally have a right of first refusal to purchase that facility at the price offered to a franchisee by a third party. In addition, some of our agreements give us a right to purchase the franchised center for fair market value, as determined by the parties or an independent appraiser, upon termination of the franchise agreement.

Franchise Sublease Agreements

In addition to franchise fees, we also collect rent from franchisees who sublease the respective travel centers from us. At December 31, 2012, there were six such subleased franchisee travel centers. During 2012, we acquired the operations at four travel centers that previously had been subleased from us by franchisees. The initial terms of each of the ten subleases expired in the second half of 2012 and the current terms of the six remaining sublease agreements end between June and September 2017. Five of the six subleases have one remaining renewal option for an additional five year period; the sixth sublease has no further renewal options. The subleases require that the franchisees notify us of their intent to renew the sublease at least 90 days but not more than 180 days prior to the expiration of the current term. Among other things, renewal is contingent upon the franchisee not being in default under the expiring sublease and executing our then current form of sublease, the terms of which may differ from the expiring sublease, including without limitation, increased rent. The material provisions of the renewed sublease agreements include the following:

Operating Costs. Under the terms of our existing leases, the sublessee is responsible for the payment of all costs and expenses in connection with the operation of the leased travel centers, typically excluding certain environmental costs, certain maintenance costs and real estate taxes.

Rent. Under the terms of our existing leases, the sublessee must pay annual fixed rent equal to the sum of:

base rent (annual base rent for the six subleases aggregated \$5.0 million as of December 31, 2012; prior to renewals in 2012, such base rent aggregated \$3.2 million for these six subleases);

improvement rent, if any, which is defined as an amount equal to a certain percentage of the cost of certain capital improvements we fund after we and the sublessee agree that the improvements may enhance the value of the leased premises; and

an annual inflator generally equal to the percentage increase in the consumer price index.

Use of the Leased Travel Center. The leased travel center must be operated as a travel center in compliance with all laws, including all environmental laws.

Termination/Nonrenewal. The subleases contain terms and provisions regarding termination and nonrenewal, which are substantially the same as the terms and provisions of the related franchise agreements. The subleases are cross defaulted with the related franchise agreements. In certain circumstances we may reimburse the franchisee for a portion of the franchisee's cost of certain capital improvements upon termination of the sublease.

Franchise Regulation

Some states require state registration and delivery of specified disclosure documentation to potential franchisees and impose special regulations on petroleum franchises. Some state laws also impose restrictions on our ability to terminate or not renew franchises and impose other limitations on the terms of our franchise relationships or the conduct of our franchise business. A number of states

Table of Contents

include, within the scope of their petroleum franchising statutes, prohibitions against price discrimination and other allegedly anticompetitive conduct. These provisions supplement applicable federal and state antitrust laws. Federal Trade Commission regulations require that we make extensive disclosure to prospective franchisees. We believe that we are in compliance with all franchise laws applicable to our business.

Competition

Fuel and nonfuel products and services can be obtained by trucking companies and truck drivers from a variety of sources, including national and regional full service travel centers and pumper only truck stops, some of which are owned or franchised by large chains and some of which are independently owned and operated, and some large service stations. In addition, some trucking companies operate their own terminals to provide fuel and services to their own trucking fleets and drivers.

Although there are in excess of 6,000 travel centers and truck stops in the U.S., we believe that large trucking fleets and long haul trucking fleets tend to purchase the large majority of their fuel at the approximately 1,900 travel centers and truck stops that are located at or near interstate highway exits and from us or our largest competitors. Based on the number of locations, TA, Pilot Travel Centers LLC, or Pilot Flying J, and Love's Travel Stops and Country Stores, Inc., or Love's, are the largest companies in our industry. Pilot Flying J is the result of the combination in 2010 of the then two largest companies in our industry, based on direct fuel sales volume. As a result of the Pilot Flying J combination, we may see increased competitive pressure that could negatively impact our sales volumes and profitability and could increase our operating or our selling, general and administrative expenses.

We experience competition from other travel center and truck stop chains based primarily on diesel fuel prices. We also experience competition from travel center chains and independent full service travel centers that is based primarily on the quality, variety and pricing of nonfuel product and service offerings. Our truck repair and maintenance facilities compete with the truck repair and maintenance facilities at Pilot Flying J and Love's locations. These two competitors have increased their respective numbers of truck repair and maintenance facilities over the past few years but do not have as large a chain of repair and maintenance facilities as we do. Regarding truck maintenance and repair services, we also compete with regional full service travel center and truck stop chains, full service independently owned and operated travel centers and truck stops, fleet maintenance terminals, independent garages, truck dealerships, truck quick lube facilities and other parts and service centers. We also compete with other full service restaurants, QSRs, mass merchandisers, electronics stores, drugstores and travel and convenience stores. Some truck fleets own their own fuel, repair and maintenance facilities; however, we believe the long term trend has been toward a reduction in these facilities in favor of obtaining fuel, repair and maintenance services from third parties like us.

An additional source of competition in the future could result from commercialization of state owned interstate highway rest areas. Some state governments have historically requested that the federal government allow these rest areas to offer fuel and nonfuel products and services similar to that offered at a travel center and certain congressional leaders have historically entertained this issue. If commercialized, these rest areas may increase the number of locations competing with us and these rest areas may have significant competitive advantages over existing travel centers, including ours, because they are generally located on restricted (i.e., toll) roads and provided dedicated ingress and egress.

Some states have privatized their toll roads that are part of the interstate highway system. We believe it is likely that tolls will increase on privatized highways. In addition, some states may increase tolls for their own account. If tolls are introduced or increased on highways in the proximity of our

Table of Contents

travel centers, our business at those travel centers may decline because truckers may seek alternative routes. Similarly, some states have privatized or are considering privatizing their publicly owned highway rest areas. If publicly owned rest areas along highways are privatized and converted to travel centers in the proximity of some of our travel centers, our business at those travel centers may decline and we may experience losses.

We believe we may be able to compete successfully for the following reasons:

Because we offer consistent, high quality products and services in our nationwide chain of large full service travel centers that feature a strong truck maintenance and repair offering, numerous diverse dining choices and large parking lots, we may be able to attract fleet and independent professional truck drivers and motorists.

Many of our employees have substantial experience in operating our business.

As a publicly owned company to which RMR provides business and property management services, we may have stronger capitalization and opportunities to raise capital than some of our competitors.

Our continuing relationship with HPT may provide us opportunities to expand our business in the future.

HPT is not obligated to provide us with opportunities to lease additional properties, and we may not be able to find other sources of capital sufficient to maintain or grow our travel center business. Also, some of our competitors may have more resources than we do; and some of our competitors have vertically integrated fuel and other businesses which may provide them competitive advantages. For all of these reasons and others, we can provide no assurance that we will be able to compete successfully.

Environmental and Climate Change Matters

Extensive environmental laws regulate our operations and properties. These laws may require us to investigate and clean up hazardous substances, including petroleum products, released at our owned and leased properties. Governmental entities or third parties may hold us liable for property damage and personal injuries, and for investigation, remediation and monitoring costs incurred in connection with any contamination and regulatory compliance. We use both underground storage tanks and above ground storage tanks to store petroleum products and waste at our travel centers. We must comply with environmental laws regarding tank construction, integrity testing, leak detection and monitoring, overfill and spill control, release reporting and financial assurance for corrective action in the event of a release. At some locations we must also comply with environmental laws relative to vapor recovery or discharges to water. In addition, legislation and regulation regarding climate change, including greenhouse gas emissions, and other environmental matters may be adopted or administered and enforced differently in the future, which could require us to expend significant amounts. For instance, federal and state governmental requirements addressing emissions from trucks and other motor vehicles, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's gasoline and diesel sulfur control requirements that limit the concentration of sulfur in motor gasoline and diesel fuel, could negatively impact our business. While the costs of our environmental compliance in the past have not had a material adverse impact on us, it is impossible to predict the ultimate effect changing circumstances and changing environmental laws may have on us in the future. Further, under the terms of our leases, we generally have agreed to indemnify HPT for any environmental liabilities related to travel centers that we lease from HPT and we are required to pay all environmental related expenses incurred in the operation of these travel centers. In addition, legislation and regulations that limit carbon emissions may cause our energy costs at our travel centers to increase.

For further information about these and other environmental and climate change matters, see the disclosure under the heading "Environmental Matters" in Note 17 to the Notes to Consolidated

Table of Contents

Financial Statements included in Item 15 of this Annual Report, which disclosure is incorporated herein by reference. In addition, for more information about these environmental and climate change matters and about the risks which may arise as a result, see elsewhere in this Annual Report, including "Warning Concerning Forward Looking Statements," Item 1A, "Risk Factors," and Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis Environmental and Climate Change Matters."

Intellectual Property

We own no patents. We own the "Petro Stopping Centers" name and related trademarks and various trade names used in our business such as RoadSquad®, RoadSquad Connect™, UltraOne®, Iron Skillet®, Reserve-It™ and others. We have the right to use the "TA", "TravelCenters of America" and other trademarks historically used by our predecessor, which are owned by HPT, during the term of the TA Lease. We also license certain trademarks used in the operation of our QSRs and may in the future license trademarks to be used in the operation of one or more of our full service restaurants. We believe that these trademarks are important to our business, but that they could be replaced with alternative trademarks without significant disruption in our business but at a cost which may be significant.

Seasonality

Assuming little variation in fuel prices; our revenues are usually lowest in the first quarter of a year when movement of freight by professional truck drivers and motorist travel are typically at their lowest levels of the year; and our revenues in the fourth quarter of a year are often somewhat lower than those of the second and third quarters because, although the beginning of the fourth quarter is often positively impacted by increased movement of freight in preparation for various national holidays, that positive impact is often more than offset by a reduction in freight movement caused by vacation time associated with those holidays taken by professional truck drivers toward the end of the year. While our revenues are modestly seasonal, the quarterly variations in our operating results may reflect greater seasonal differences because our rent and certain other costs do not vary seasonally.

Employees

As of December 31, 2012, we employed approximately 17,750 people on a full or part time basis. Of this total, approximately 17,120 were employees at our company operated sites, 560 performed managerial, operational or support services at our headquarters or elsewhere and 70 employees staffed our distribution centers. Thirty of our employees at two travel centers are represented by unions. We believe that our relationship with our employees is satisfactory.

Internet Website

Our internet website address is www.tatravelcenters.com. Copies of our governance guidelines, code of business conduct and ethics, our policy outlining procedures for handling concerns or complaints about accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the charters of our audit, compensation and nominating and governance committees are posted on our website and also may be obtained free of charge by writing to our Secretary, TravelCenters of America LLC, Two Newton Place, 255 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, Massachusetts 02458 or at our website. We make available, free of charge, on our website, our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to these reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after these forms are filed with, or furnished to, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC. Any shareholder or other interested party who desires to communicate with our Independent Directors, individually or as a group, may do so by filling out a report on our website. Our board of directors also provides a process for security holders to send communications to the

Table of Contents

entire board. Information about the process for sending communications to our board can be found on our website. Our website address is included several times in this Annual Report as a textual reference only and the information in the website is not incorporated by reference into this Annual Report.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Our business faces many risks. If any of the events or circumstances described in the following risks occurs, our business, financial condition or results of operations could suffer and the trading price of our equity securities could decline. Investors and prospective investors should carefully consider the following risks, the risks referred to elsewhere in this Annual Report and the information contained under the heading "Warning Concerning Forward Looking Statements" before deciding whether to invest in our securities.

Risks in our business

Our operations have produced losses.

From when we began operations on January 31, 2007, through 2010 our business produced losses. Although some of our historical results were impacted by separation obligations with our former management, business reorganizations and other costs that we do not expect to continue and we have been profitable in 2011 and 2012, we believe our losses in prior periods were also the result of the general decline of the U.S. and world economies over which we have no control. We can not provide any assurance that we will be able to operate profitably in future periods.

Our operating margins are narrow.

Our total operating revenues for the year ended December 31, 2012, were \$8.0 billion, while the sum of our cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation) and site level operating expenses for the same period totaled \$7.6 billion. Fuel sales in particular generate low gross margins. Our fuel sales for the year ended December 31, 2012, were \$6.6 billion and our gross margin on fuel sales was \$0.3 billion, or approximately 4.9% of fuel sales. A small percentage decline in our future revenues or increase in our future expenses, especially revenues and expenses related to fuel, may cause our profits to decline or us to incur losses.

Our financial results are affected by U.S. economic condition.

The trucking industry is the primary customer for our goods and services. Demand for trucking services in the U.S. generally reflects the amount of commercial activity in the U.S. economy. When the U.S. economy declines, demand for our products and services declines. For example, in the recent past declines in housing construction led to less lumber and construction materials being shipped, and these reduced shipments resulted in fewer customers and lower sales volumes at our travel centers. While the U.S. economy recently has been slowly growing over the past several quarters and trucking activity measures reflect growth in that industry, the strength and sustainability of any economic recovery is uncertain. If the U.S. economy continues to operate as it has over the past few years, or if it worsens, our financial results may not improve and may decline.

We have a substantial amount of indebtedness and deferred rent obligations, which could adversely affect our financial condition.

As of December 31, 2012, we had total consolidated indebtedness of \$58.2 million, consisting solely of letters of credit outstanding under our credit facility, deferred rent obligations of \$150 million and no preferred equity outstanding. On January 15, 2013, we completed an offering of \$110 million of our 8.25% Senior Notes due 2028. Together, these obligations are substantial and could limit our ability to obtain financing for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, refinancing, lease liabilities or

Table of Contents

other purposes. They may also increase our vulnerability to adverse economic, market and industry conditions, limit our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business operations or to our industry overall, and place us at a disadvantage in relation to competitors that have lower debt levels. Any or all of the above events and factors could have an adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

We are obligated to pay material amounts of rent to HPT.

The terms of our leases with HPT require us to pay all of our operating costs and generally fixed amounts of rent. During periods of business decline, like the one we experienced during the recent recession, our revenues and gross margins may decrease but our minimum rents due to HPT do not decline. A decline in our revenues or an increase in our expenses may make it difficult or impossible for us to meet all of our obligations and, if we default under our HPT leases, we may be unable to continue our business.

Fuel price increases and fuel price volatility negatively affect our business.

High fuel prices and the inability to project future prices have several adverse impacts upon our business. First, high fuel prices result in higher truck shipping costs. This causes shippers to consider alternative means for transporting freight, which reduces trucking business and, in turn, reduces our business. Second, high fuel prices cause our trucking customers to seek cost savings throughout their businesses. This has resulted in many customer measures to conserve fuel, such as lower maximum driving speeds and reduced truck engine idling reducing total fuel consumption and our fuel sales. Third, higher fuel prices may result in less disposable income for our customers to purchase our nonfuel goods and services. Fourth, higher and more volatile fuel commodity prices increase the working capital needed to maintain our fuel inventories and receivables, and this increases our costs of doing business. If fuel commodity prices or fuel price volatility increase, our financial results may not improve and may worsen.

Our travel centers require regular and expensive maintenance and capital investments.

Our travel centers are open for business 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Also, many of our travel centers were originally constructed more than 25 years ago. Because of the age of many of our travel centers and because of the nature and intensity of the uses of our travel centers, our travel centers require regular expenditures for maintenance and capital investments to remain functional and attractive to customers. If we can not access capital necessary to maintain our properties, our business may decline and our profits may decline or we may incur losses. Also, deferring certain capital expenditures in the near term may require us to make even larger amounts of capital expenditures in the future.

Although we may request that HPT purchase future renovations, improvements and equipment at the travel centers that we lease from HPT, HPT is not obligated to purchase any amounts and any amounts it purchases will result in an increase in our rent payable to HPT.

We rely upon trade creditors for a significant amount of our working capital and the availability of alternative sources of financing may be limited.

Our fuel purchases are our largest operating cost. Historically, we have paid for our fuel purchases after delivery. In the past, as our fuel costs increased with the increase in commodity market prices, some of our fuel suppliers were unwilling to adjust the amounts of our available trade credit to accommodate the increased costs of the fuel volumes that we purchase; for example, a \$10 million amount of trade credit will allow us to purchase 5 million gallons of fuel at \$2.00 per gallon, but only 3.33 million gallons at \$3.00 per gallon. Also, our historical financial results and general U.S. economic

Table of Contents

conditions have caused some fuel suppliers to request letters of credit or other forms of security for our purchases. We cannot predict how high or low fuel prices may be in the future, and fuel commodity prices significantly impact our working capital requirements.

In light of economic, industry and global credit market conditions and our historical operating losses, the availability and terms of any credit we may be able to obtain are uncertain. Although we maintain a credit facility permitting borrowings of up to \$200 million, we typically utilize a large portion of that facility for issuances of letters of credit to our fuel suppliers to secure our fuel purchases and to taxing authorities (or surety bond providers) for fuel taxes. In addition, our qualified collateral historically has been below the amount required to permit the entire \$200 million under the credit facility to be available to us for borrowings. At December 31, 2012, a total of \$132.3 million was available to us for loans and letters of credit under the credit facility. Any increased investment in working capital decreases our financial flexibility to use our capital for other business purposes or to fund our operations and may cause us to suffer losses.

Our credit facility is secured by substantially all of our cash, accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and intangible assets and imposes restrictions on our ability to incur additional indebtedness or to grant security interests in our assets. Further, under the HPT Leases, subject to certain exceptions, our tenant subsidiaries may not incur debt secured by any of their assets used in the operation of the leased travel centers without HPT's consent. Because security interests in a significant amount of our assets have already been granted and we are contractually limited in our ability to incur additional debt or grant security interests, our ability to obtain additional financing may be limited.

An interruption in our fuel supplies would materially adversely affect our business.

To mitigate the risks arising from fuel price volatility, we generally maintain limited fuel inventories. Accordingly, an interruption in our fuel supplies would materially adversely affect our business. Interruptions in fuel supplies may be caused by local conditions, such as a malfunction in a particular pipeline or terminal, by weather related events, such as hurricanes in the areas where petroleum is extracted or refined, or by national or international conditions, such as government rationing, acts of terrorism, wars and the like. Further, our fuel suppliers may fail to provide us with fuel due to these or other reasons. Any limitation in available fuel supplies or on the fuel we can offer for sale may cause our profits to decline or us to experience losses.

Our storage and dispensing of petroleum products create the potential for environmental damages, and compliance with environmental laws is often expensive.

Our business is subject to laws relating to the protection of the environment. The travel centers we operate include fueling areas, truck repair and maintenance facilities and tanks for the storage of petroleum products and other hazardous substances, all of which create the potential for environmental damage. As a result, we regularly incur environmental clean up costs. Our balance sheet as of December 31, 2012, included an accrued liability of \$10.4 million for environmental remediation and related costs. Because of the uncertainties associated with environmental expenditures, it is possible that future expenditures could be substantially higher than this amount. Environmental laws expose us to the possibility that we may become liable to reimburse governments or others for damages and costs they incur in connection with environmental hazards or liable for fines and penalties for failure to comply with environmental laws. We cannot predict what environmental legislation or regulations may be enacted or how existing laws or regulations will be administered or interpreted with respect to our products or activities in the future; more stringent laws, more vigorous enforcement policies or stricter interpretation of existing laws in the future could cause us to expend significant amounts or experience losses.

Table of Contents

In our experience, the risk of being subject to regulatory review and proceedings for environmental related matters is greater in certain jurisdictions, such as the State of California. We have significant operations in the State of California and are currently and have in the past been subject to regulatory review and proceedings for environmental related matters and may in the future be subject to similar reviews and proceedings in that state or elsewhere. Although to date our environmental regulatory matters in the State of California have not resulted in settlements or judgments against us, or otherwise resulted in our paying or agreeing to pay amounts, which have had, or which we expect would reasonably be likely to have, a material adverse effect on our business, there can be no assurance that they will not have such an effect or that environmental regulatory reviews or proceedings elsewhere would not have such an effect on us.

Under the leases between us and HPT, we have agreed to indemnify HPT from environmental liabilities it may incur arising at any of the travel centers we lease from HPT. Although we maintain insurance policies which cover our environmental liabilities, that coverage may not adequately cover liabilities we may incur. To the extent we incur material amounts for environmental matters for which we do not receive insurance or other third party reimbursement or for which we have not recognized a liability in prior years, our operating results may be materially adversely affected. In addition, to the extent we fail to comply with environmental laws and regulations, or we become subject to costs and requirements not similarly experienced by our competitors, our competitive position may be harmed. Also, to the extent we are or become obligated to fund any such liabilities, such funding obligation could materially adversely affect our liquidity and financial position.

Consolidation of our competitors and the third party fuel card companies may negatively affect our business.

In 2010, the largest companies in our industry based on diesel fuel volume combined to form Pilot Flying J. As a result of this combination, we may see increased competitive pressure that could negatively impact our sales volumes and profitability and could increase our level of operating and selling, general and administrative expenses. In addition, most of our trucking customers transact business with us by use of fuel cards, which are issued by third party fuel card companies. The fuel card industry has only a few significant participants, including Comdata Network, Inc., or Comdata, the largest issuer of fuel cards, and Electronic Funds Source, LLC, or EFS, a company affiliated with Pilot Flying J. EFS is the product of the combination during 2011 and 2012 of the fuel card businesses of Transportation Clearing House LLC, EFS Transportation Services, Inc., and T-Check Systems, each previously one of the larger competitors to Comdata in the fuel card industry, making, we believe, EFS the second largest competitor in the fuel card industry. We are unable to determine the full extent and effect the combined Pilot Flying J may have on our financial position, results of operations, or competitive position, although we expect the combination may significantly alter the competitive conditions in the travel center industry. Further, we are unable to determine the extent of the effect that competition, or lack thereof, between Comdata and EFS in particular, may result in future increases in our transaction fee expenses or working capital requirements, or both.

Many of our labor costs are fixed and cannot be reduced without adversely affecting our business.

To maintain and manage our operations requires certain minimum staffing levels to operate our travel centers 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and we attempt to manage our staffing so to avoid excess, unused capacity. As a result, it may be difficult for us to effect future reductions in our staff without adversely affecting our business prospects. Also, certain opportunities for sales may be lost when labor is reduced.

Table of Contents

Our customers may become unable to pay us when we extend credit.

We sell some of our products on credit. Customers purchasing fuel or other goods or services on credit from us may default on their obligations to pay, or they may extend the payment periods, for products sold to them on credit. In light of the challenging economic conditions that have existed in the U.S. generally during and since the recent recession and in the trucking industry specifically, and the slow and uneven recovery and expansion of the U.S. economy since the recession, the risk that some of our customers may not pay us may be greater at present than it had been prior to the recession. Also, to the extent that we are unable to collect receivables owed to us in a timely fashion, we may be required to increase amounts invested in our working capital, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations or financial condition.

We are involved in litigation which is expensive and may have adverse impacts upon our business.

We are currently involved in litigation which is expensive and which may have adverse consequences to us. If these litigation matters or new litigation matters continue for extended periods or if they result in judgments adverse to us, our profits may decline or we may experience losses. In addition, in our experience, the risk of litigation is greater in certain jurisdictions, such as the State of California. We have significant operations in the State of California and have in the past been, are currently and may in the future be, party to employee and other litigation in that state or elsewhere. Although to date our litigation matters in the State of California have not resulted in settlements or judgments against us which have had, or which we expect reasonably would be likely to have, a material adverse effect on our business, there can be no assurance that they will not have such an effect or that litigation elsewhere would not have such an effect on us. See below Item 3, "Legal Proceedings."

Our labor costs may significantly increase as a result of healthcare regulatory initiatives.

The adoption of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the related reconciliation measure, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and the regulations resulting from such legislation may significantly increase the costs of providing health care to our employees. Due to the complexity of the legislation and the uncertain timing and content of the related regulations, we are unable to predict the amount and timing of any such increased costs, but the cost may be material. In addition, it is likely that we will incur additional administrative costs to comply with certain provisions of this legislation. Because many of the rules and regulations have not yet been defined, we are unable to predict the amount of these costs or to what extent we may need to divert other resources to comply with various provisions of this legislation. While the significant costs of the recent healthcare legislation are expected to occur after 2013, changes to our employee healthcare costs could have a significant, adverse impact on our business and results of operations.

We may have to expend significant amounts to comply with climate change and other environmental legislation and regulation; and the market reaction to such legislation and regulation and climate change concerns generally may require us to make significant capital or other expenditures and may adversely affect our business.

Future climate change legislation and regulation, including those addressing greenhouse gas emissions, may require us to expend significant amounts. In addition, the market reaction to any such legislation or regulation or to climate change concerns generally may cause us to incur increased costs and capital expenditures. Increased costs incurred by our suppliers as a result of climate change or other environmental legislation or regulation may be passed on to us in the prices we pay for our fuel supplies, but we may not be able to pass on those increased costs to our customers. Increased fuel costs resulting from these reasons would likely have similar effects on our business, operations and liquidity as discussed elsewhere regarding high fuel costs, including decreased demand for our fuel at our travel centers, increased working capital needs and decreased fuel gross margins. Further, legislation and

Table of Contents

regulations that limit carbon emissions may cause our energy costs at our travel centers to increase. Moreover, technological changes developed or changes in customer transportation or fueling preferences, including as a result of or in response to any such legislation, regulation or market reaction, may require us to make significant capital or other expenditures to adopt those technologies or to address those changed preferences and may decrease the demand for products and services sold at our travel centers. For example, federal and state governmental requirements addressing emissions from trucks and other motor vehicles, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's gasoline and diesel sulfur control requirements that limit the concentration of sulfur in motor gasoline and diesel fuel, could negatively impact our business by making the fuel more expensive and causing our customers to buy less. For more information regarding climate change matters and their possible adverse impact on us, please see "Management's Discussion and Analysis Environmental and Climate Change Matters."

Our franchisees may become unable to pay our rents, franchise royalties and other fees and we have limited control of our franchisees.

Six travel centers which we lease from HPT are subleased to franchisees. A failure by our franchisees to pay rents to us would not affect our minimum rent payable to HPT. As of December 31, 2012, an additional 29 travel centers not owned by us or HPT are operated by franchisees. For the year ended December 31, 2012, the rent, franchise royalty and other fee revenue generated from all of our franchisee relationships was \$14.7 million, including \$2.8 million earned in the periods during 2012 from eight franchisee businesses prior to the respective times that we acquired those businesses in 2012. We believe the difficult business conditions which have affected the locations which we operate during and since the recent U.S. recession, including the effects of U.S. economic conditions and high and volatile fuel commodity prices, have also adversely affected our franchisees and may make it difficult for our franchisees to pay the rent, franchise royalties and other fees due to us. In addition, our sublease and franchise agreements with our franchisees are subject to periodic renewal by us or the franchisee. Also, various laws and our existing franchise agreements limit the control we may exercise over our franchisees' business activities. A failure by our franchisees to pay rent, franchise royalties and other fees to us, or the termination or non-renewal of a significant number of our franchise agreements, may cause our profits to decline.

We rely on information technology in our operations, and any material failure, inadequacy, interruption or security failure of information technology could harm our business.

We rely on information technology networks and systems including the Internet, or IT systems, to process, transmit and store electronic information, including financial records and personal identifying information such as employee and payroll data and workforce scheduling information, and to manage or support a variety of business processes, including our supply chain, retail sales, credit card payments and authorizations, financial transactions, banking and numerous other processes and transactions. We purchase some of the IT systems we use from vendors on whom our IT systems materially depend. We rely on commercially available and proprietary IT systems, software, tools and monitoring to provide security for processing, transmission and storage of confidential customer information, such as payment card and credit information. In addition, the IT systems we use for transmission and approval of payment card transactions, and the technology utilized in payment cards themselves, may put payment card data at risk; and some of these IT systems are determined and controlled by the payment card suppliers and not by us. Although we have taken steps to protect and maintain the security of the IT systems we use and the data maintained in them, it is possible that our security measures will not prevent the improper functioning of or damage to the IT systems we use, or the improper access to such IT systems or disclosure of personally identifiable information, such as in the event of a cyber attack. Security breaches, including physical or electronic breakins, computer viruses, attacks by hackers and similar breaches, can create system disruptions, shutdowns or unauthorized disclosure of

Table of Contents

confidential information. Any compromise or breach of our IT systems could cause material interruptions in our operations, damage our reputation, subject us to material liability claims or regulatory penalties, reduce our customers' willingness to conduct business with us and could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Further, the failure of the IT systems we use to operate effectively, or problems we may experience with maintaining the IT systems we currently use or transitioning to upgraded or replacement systems, could significantly harm our business and operations and cause us to incur significant costs to remediate such problems.

Our sales could be harmed if our suppliers, franchisors or licensors become associated with negative publicity.

We sell branded gasoline at some of our travel centers and most of our travel centers have QSRs. If the companies or brands associated with these products and offerings become associated with negative publicity, our customers may avoid purchasing these products and offerings, including at our travel centers, and may avoid visiting our travel centers because of our association with the particular company or brand, which could harm our sales and results of operations.

Privatization of toll roads or of rest areas may negatively affect our business.

Some states have privatized their toll roads that are part of the interstate highway system. We believe it is likely that tolls will increase on privatized highways. In addition, some states may increase tolls for their own account. If tolls are introduced or increased on highways in the proximity of our travel centers, our business at those travel centers may decline because truckers may seek alternative routes. Similarly, some states have privatized or are considering privatizing their publicly owned highway rest areas. If publicly owned rest areas along highways are privatized and converted to travel centers in the proximity of some of our travel centers, our business at those travel centers may decline and we may experience losses.

We may be unable to utilize our net operating loss carry forwards.

Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code, imposes limitations on the ability of a company taxable as a corporation that undergoes an "ownership change", as defined by the Code, to use its net operating loss carry forwards to reduce its tax liability. As a result of certain trading in our shares during 2007, we experienced an ownership change. Consequently, we are unable to use our net operating loss generated in 2007 to offset any future taxable income we may generate. If we experience additional ownership changes, our net operating losses generated after 2007 could also be subject to limitations on usage. Since the ownership change in 2007, we experienced a substantial amount of trading in our shares. In 2009, our bylaws were amended to impose certain restrictions on the transfer of our shares in order to help us preserve the tax treatment of our net operating losses and other tax benefits (see below for a discussion of the risks related to our ownership limitations under the heading "Risks arising from certain relationships of ours and our organization and structure").

If we fail to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting our financial reporting could be inaccurate.

Internal control systems are intended to provide reasonable assurance regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements. We concluded that our internal controls over financial reporting were not effective as of December 31, 2011. During 2011 we identified certain deficiencies in our internal control over financial reporting with respect to our historical methodology for impairment analysis of our property and equipment, our assigning of depreciable lives to leasehold assets and our amortization of our sale/leaseback financing obligation. We believe we recorded appropriate adjustments so that the Consolidated Financial Statements appearing in Item 15 of this Annual Report present fairly, in all material respects, our financial position, results of operations and

Table of Contents

cash flows for the periods presented, and that during 2012 we remediated the identified deficiencies in order to improve our internal control over financial reporting for future financial reporting; however, we cannot assure you that we will not discover other material weaknesses in our controls. If we fail to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting, the accuracy and timing of our financial reporting may be adversely affected, our business and financial condition could be harmed, investors may lose confidence in our reported financial information and the market price of our common shares or other securities may decline.

Risks arising from certain relationships of ours and our organization and structure

Our business is subject to possible conflicts of interest with HPT and RMR.

Our business is subject to possible conflicts of interest, as follows:

We have five Directors: one of whom, Barry M. Portnoy, also is a managing trustee of HPT, and Chairman, the majority owner and an employee of RMR; one of whom, Arthur G. Koumantzelis, is a former trustee of HPT from prior to when we became a separate public company; and one of whom, Thomas M. O'Brien, is a former executive officer of HPT. Further, Mr. Portnoy and all of our Independent Directors are members of the boards of trustees or boards of directors of other companies to which RMR or its affiliates provides management services.

Mr. O'Brien, our President and Chief Executive Officer, Andrew J. Rebholz, our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, and Mark R. Young, our Executive Vice President and General Counsel, are also officers of RMR.

We lease a large majority of our travel centers from HPT.

RMR provides us business management and shared services pursuant to a business management and shared services agreement and property management services with respect to our headquarters building pursuant to a property management agreement, and RMR provides business and property management services to HPT.

In the event of conflicts between us and RMR, any affiliate of RMR or any publicly owned entity with which RMR has a relationship, including HPT, our business management and shared services agreement allows RMR to act on its own behalf and on behalf of HPT or such other entity rather than on our behalf.

RMR's simultaneous contractual obligations to us and HPT create potential conflicts of interest, or the appearance of such conflicts.

In connection with the agreement we entered as part of the HPT Transaction, we granted HPT a right of first refusal to purchase, lease, mortgage or otherwise finance any interest we own in a travel center before we sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise finance that travel center with another party, and we granted HPT and other entities to which RMR provides management services a right of first refusal to acquire or finance any real estate of the types in which they invest before we do, which could limit our ability to purchase or finance our properties or properties we may wish to invest in or acquire in the future. Also, under this agreement we agreed not to take any action that might reasonably be expected to have a material adverse impact on HPT's ability to qualify as a real estate investment trust, or REIT.

We believe that our historical and ongoing business dealings with HPT and RMR have benefited us and that, despite the foregoing possible conflicts of interest, the transactions we have entered with HPT and RMR since the HPT Transaction have been commercially reasonable and not less favorable than otherwise available to us. Nonetheless, in the past, in particular following periods of volatility in the overall market or declines in the market price of a company's securities, shareholder litigation,

Table of Contents

dissident shareholder director nominations and dissident shareholder proposals have often been instituted against companies alleging conflicts of interest in business dealings with affiliated and related persons and entities. Our relationships with HPT, RMR, AIC, the other businesses and entities to which RMR provides management services, Barry M. Portnoy and RMR's affiliates may precipitate such activities. These activities, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs and a diversion of our management's attention.

We have significant commercial arrangements with RMR and HPT and we are dependent on those arrangements in operating our business.

We are party to a business management and shared services agreement with RMR, whereby RMR assists us with various aspects of our business, and a property management agreement with RMR, whereby RMR manages our headquarters office building. One of our Directors is the majority owner and Chairman of RMR. One of our other Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer, our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and our Executive Vice President and General Counsel are also officers of RMR. Most of the travel centers that we operate are leased by us, principally from HPT. As a result of these factors, we are dependent on our arrangements with RMR and HPT in operating our business and any adverse developments in those arrangements could have a material adverse effect on our business and our ability to conduct our operations.

Territorial restrictions placed on us by our leases with HPT and our franchise agreements with our franchisees could impair our ability to grow our business.

Under our leases with HPT, without the consent of HPT, we generally cannot own, franchise, finance, operate, lease or manage any travel center or similar property within 75 miles in either direction along the primary interstate on which a travel center owned by HPT is located. Under the terms of our franchise agreements for TA travel centers, generally we have agreed not to operate, or allow another person to operate, a travel center or travel center business that uses the TA brand in a specified territory for that TA branded franchise location. Under the terms of our franchise agreements for Petro travel centers, generally we have agreed not to operate, or allow another person to operate, a travel center or travel center business that uses the Petro brand in a specified territory for that Petro branded franchise location. As a result of these restrictions, we may be unable to develop, acquire or franchise a travel center in an area in which an additional travel center may be profitable, thereby losing an opportunity for future growth of our business.

Ownership limitations, anti-takeover and other provisions in our limited liability company agreement, bylaws and certain material agreements may prevent our shareholders from receiving a takeover premium or from implementing changes.

Our limited liability company agreement, or our LLC agreement, and bylaws contain separate provisions which prohibit any shareholder from owning more than 9.8% and 5% of the number or value of any class or series of our outstanding shares. The 9.8% ownership limitation in our LLC agreement is consistent with our contractual obligations with HPT to not take actions that may conflict with HPT's status as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. The 5% ownership limitation in our bylaws is intended to help us preserve the tax treatment of our net operating losses and other tax benefits. We also believe these provisions promote good orderly governance. These provisions inhibit acquisitions of a significant stake in us and may prevent a change in our control. Additionally, many provisions contained in our LLC Agreement and bylaws may further deter persons from attempting to acquire control of us and implement changes that may be beneficial to our shareholders, including, for example, provisions relating to:

the division of our Directors into three classes, with the term of one class expiring each year, which could delay a change of control;

Table of Contents

required qualifications for an individual to serve as a Director and a requirement that certain of our Directors be "Managing Directors" and other Directors be "Independent Directors", as defined in the governing documents;

the power of our Board of Directors, without shareholders' approval, to authorize and issue additional shares of any class or type on terms that it determines;

limitations on the ability of our shareholders to propose nominees for election as Directors and propose other business to be considered at a meeting of shareholders;

a requirement that an individual Director may only be removed for cause and then only by unanimous vote of the other Directors; and a 75% shareholders' vote and cause requirements for removal of our entire Board of Directors;

a 75% shareholders' vote requirement for shareholder nominations and other proposals which are not approved by our Board of Directors;

the authority of our Board of Directors, and not our shareholders, to adopt, amend or repeal our bylaws and to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors;

limitations on the ability of shareholders to cause a special meeting of shareholders to be held and a prohibition on shareholders acting by written consent unless the consent is a unanimous consent of all our shareholders entitled to vote on the matter;

because of our ownership of AIC, we are an insurance holding company under applicable state law; accordingly, anyone who intends to solicit proxies for a person to serve as one of our Directors or for another proposal of business not approved by our Board of Directors may be required to receive pre-clearance from the concerned insurance regulators;

requirements that shareholders comply with regulatory requirements (including Nevada and Louisiana gaming and Indiana insurance licensing requirements) affecting us which could effectively limit share ownership of us, including in some cases, to 5% of our outstanding shares; and

requirements that any person nominated to be a Director comply with clearance and pre-clearance requirements of state laws applicable to our business including clearance and pre-clearance by Nevada and Louisiana gambling authorities and Indiana insurance regulators.

In addition, the HPT Leases, our shareholders agreement with respect to AIC, our business management and shared services agreement with RMR and our credit facility each provide that our rights and benefits under those agreements may be terminated in the event that anyone acquires more than 9.8% of our shares or we experience some other change in control, as defined in those agreements, without the consent of HPT, RMR or the lenders under the credit facility, respectively, and that AIC and the other shareholders of AIC may have rights to acquire our interests in AIC if such an acquisition occurs or if we experience some other change of control. In addition, our obligation to repay deferred rent then outstanding under our amended leases with HPT may be accelerated if, among other things, a Director not nominated or appointed by the then members of our Board of Directors is elected to our Board of Directors or if our shareholders adopt a proposal (other than a precatory proposal) not recommended for adoption by the then members of our Board of Directors. For these reasons, among others, our shareholders may be unable to realize a change of control premium for securities they own or otherwise effect a change of our policies or a change of our control.

Table of Contents

Certain aspects of our business may prevent shareholders from accumulating large share ownership, from nominating or serving as Directors, or from taking actions to otherwise control our business.

Certain of our properties include gambling operations. Applicable state laws require that any shareholder who owns or controls 5% or more of our securities or anyone who wishes to serve as one of our Directors must be licensed or approved by the state regulators responsible for gambling operations. Similarly, as an owner of AIC, we are licensed and approved as an insurance holding company; and any shareholder who owns or controls 10% or more of our securities or anyone who wishes to solicit proxies for election of, or to serve as, one of our Directors or for another proposal of business not approved by our Board of Directors may be required to receive pre-clearance from the concerned insurance regulators. These approval and pre-approval procedures may discourage or prevent investors from purchasing our securities, from nominating persons to serve as our Directors or from taking other actions.

Our rights and the rights of our shareholders to take action against our Directors, officers, HPT and RMR are limited.

Our LLC agreement eliminates the personal liability of each of our Directors to us and our shareholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as our Director, except for a breach of the Director's duty of loyalty to us or our shareholders as modified by our LLC agreement, for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involved intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, or for any transaction from which the Director derived an improper personal benefit. Our LLC agreement also provides that our Directors and officers, HPT, RMR, and the respective directors and officers of HPT and RMR shall not be liable for monetary damages to us or our shareholders for losses sustained or liabilities incurred as a result of any act or omission by any of them unless there has been a final, nonappealable judgment entered by a court determining that such person or entity acted in bad faith or engaged in fraud, willful misconduct or, in the case of a criminal matter, acted with knowledge that his, her or its conduct was unlawful.

Our LLC agreement also generally requires us to indemnify, to the fullest extent permitted by law, our present and former Directors and officers, HPT, RMR, and the respective directors and officers of HPT and RMR for losses that may occur arising from claims or actions in which any of them may be involved in connection with any act or omission by such person or entity in good faith on behalf of or with respect to us. We also have similar obligations to our Directors and officers under individual indemnification agreements with such persons. In addition, we may be obligated to pay or reimburse the expenses incurred by our present and former Directors and officers, HPT, RMR, and the respective directors and officers of HPT and RMR without requiring a preliminary determination of their ultimate entitlement to indemnification. As a result, we and our shareholders may have more limited rights against our present and former Directors and officers, HPT, RMR, and the respective directors and officers of HPT and RMR than might otherwise exist absent the provisions in our LLC agreement or that might exist with other companies, which could limit our shareholders' recourse in the event of actions not in our shareholders' best interest.

Disputes with HPT and RMR and shareholder litigation against us or our Directors and officers may be referred to binding arbitration.

Our contracts with HPT and RMR provide that any dispute arising under those contracts may be referred to binding arbitration. Similarly, our LLC agreement and bylaws provide that actions by our shareholders against us or against our Directors and officers, including derivative and class actions, may be referred to binding arbitration. As a result, we and our shareholders may not be able to pursue litigation for these disputes in courts against HPT, RMR or our Directors or officers. In addition, the ability to collect attorneys' fees or other damages may be limited in the arbitration, which may discourage attorneys from agreeing to represent parties wishing to commence such a proceeding.

Table of Contents

We may experience losses from our business dealings with AIC.

We have invested approximately \$5.2 million in Affiliates Insurance Company, or AIC, we have purchased substantially all of our property insurance in a program designed and reinsured in part by AIC and we are currently investigating the possibilities to expand our relationship with AIC to other types of insurance. We, RMR, HPT and five other companies to which RMR provides management services, each own 12.5% of AIC and we and those other AIC shareholders participate in a combined insurance program designed and reinsured in part by AIC. Our principal reason for investing in AIC and for purchasing insurance in these programs is to seek to improve our financial results by obtaining improved insurance coverages at lower costs than may be otherwise available to us or by participating in any profits which we may realize as an owner of AIC. These beneficial financial results may not occur and we may need to invest additional capital in order to continue to pursue these results. AIC's business involves the risks typical of an insurance business, including the risk that it may be insufficiently capitalized. Accordingly, our anticipated financial benefits from our business dealings with AIC may be delayed or not achieved and we may experience losses from these dealings.

Risks related to our securities

Our shares have experienced significant price and trading volume volatility and may continue to do so.

Since we became a publicly traded company in January 2007, our shares have experienced significant share price and trading volatility, which may continue. The market price of our common shares has fluctuated and could fluctuate significantly in the future in response to various factors and events, including, but not limited to, the risks set out in this Annual Report, as well as:

the liquidity of the market for our common shares;

changes in our operating results;

changes in analysts' expectations; and

general economic and industry trends and conditions.

In addition, in the past, following periods of volatility in the overall market and the market price of a company's securities, securities class action litigation has often been instituted against these companies. This litigation, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs and a diversion of our management's attention and resources.

We do not intend to pay cash dividends on our common shares in the foreseeable future.

We have never declared or paid any cash dividends on our common shares. Our credit facility restricts our payment of cash dividends on our common shares, unless certain requirements under the credit facility are met, including that excess availability is not less than 20% after any such payment, and our rent deferral agreement with HPT prohibits us from paying any dividends while any deferred rent remains unpaid. We currently do not anticipate paying any cash dividends in the foreseeable future.

Our credit facility imposes restrictive covenants on us, and a default under the agreements relating to our credit facility could have a material adverse effect on our business and financial condition.

Our credit facility requires us and our subsidiaries, among other obligations, to maintain a specified financial ratio under certain circumstances and to satisfy certain financial tests. These tests include maintenance of certain financial ratios any time that excess availability under the credit facility falls below 15% of the maximum credit limit of \$200 million, until such time that the excess availability has been greater than 15% of the maximum credit limit for thirty consecutive days. In addition, our credit facility restricts, among other things, our ability to incur debt and liens, make certain investments

Table of Contents

and pay dividends and other distributions including, under certain circumstances, payments on the Senior Notes. Under certain circumstances, we are required to seek permission from the lenders under our credit facility to engage in specified corporate actions.

Various risks, uncertainties and events beyond our control could affect our ability to comply with these covenants. Failure to comply with these covenants (or similar covenants contained in future financing agreements) could result in a default under our credit facility and other agreements containing cross-default provisions, which, if not cured or waived, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. A default would permit lenders or holders, excluding holders of the Senior Notes, to accelerate the maturity of the debt under these agreements and to foreclose upon any collateral securing the debt and to terminate any commitments to lend. Under these circumstances, we might not have sufficient funds or other resources to satisfy all of our obligations, including our obligations under the Senior Notes. In addition, the limitations imposed by financing agreements on our ability to incur additional debt and to take other actions might significantly impair our ability to obtain other financing. If our indebtedness were to be accelerated, our assets may not be sufficient to repay such indebtedness in full. In such circumstances, we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation and, as a result, investors could lose their investment in our securities.

The indenture under which the Senior Notes were issued does not contain financial covenants and does not limit the amount of indebtedness that we may incur.

The indenture under which the Senior Notes were issued contains no financial covenants or other provisions that would afford the holders of the Senior Notes any substantial protection in the event we participate in a material transaction. In addition, the indenture does not limit the amount of indebtedness we may incur or our ability to pay dividends, make distributions or repurchase shares of our common stock. As a result, noteholders are not protected under the indenture in the event of a highly leveraged transaction, reorganization, change of control, restructuring, sale of significant amount of assets, merger or similar transaction that may adversely affect them.

The Senior Notes are unsecured and effectively subordinated to all of our existing and future secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness.

Upon any distribution to our creditors in a bankruptcy, liquidation, reorganization or similar proceeding relating to us or our property, the holders of our secured debt, including the lenders under our credit facility, will be entitled to exercise the remedies available to a secured lender under applicable law and pursuant to the instruments governing such debt and to be paid in full from the assets securing that secured debt before any payment may be made with respect to the Senior Notes. In that event, because the Senior Notes are not secured by any of our assets, it is possible that there will be no assets from which claims of holders of the Senior Notes can be satisfied or, if any assets remain, that the remaining assets will be insufficient to satisfy those claims in full. If the value of such remaining assets is less than the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Senior Notes and accrued interest and all future debt ranking pari passu with the Senior Notes, we will be unable to fully satisfy our obligations under the Senior Notes. In addition, if we fail to meet our payment or other obligations under our secured debt, the holders of that secured debt would be entitled to foreclose on our assets securing that secured debt and liquidate those assets. Accordingly, we may not have sufficient funds to pay amounts due on the Senior Notes. As a result, noteholders may lose a portion of or the entire value of their investment in the Senior Notes.

Our credit facility is secured by substantially all of the personal property of the borrowers and the guarantors, including a first-priority security interest in 100% of the equity interests of the borrowers and each of their domestic majority owned subsidiaries, 65% of the equity interests of each of the borrowers' foreign majority owned subsidiaries, and all intercompany debt. The amount available to us

Table of Contents

under our credit facility is determined by reference to a borrowing base calculated based on eligible collateral. At December 31, 2012, this borrowing base calculation provided a total of \$132.3 million available for loans and letters of credit under the credit facility. At December 31, 2012, there were no loans outstanding under the credit facility but we had outstanding \$58.2 million of letters of credit issued under that facility securing certain purchases, insurance, fuel taxes and other trade obligations. Further, the terms of the Senior Notes permit us to incur additional secured indebtedness. The Senior Notes will be effectively subordinated to any such additional secured indebtedness.

An active trading market for the Senior Notes may not develop, be maintained or be liquid.

We can give no assurances concerning the liquidity of any market that may develop for the Senior Notes, the ability of any investor to sell the Senior Notes, or the price at which investors would be able to sell them. If a market for the Senior Notes does not develop, investors may be unable to resell the Senior Notes for an extended period of time, if at all. If a market for the Senior Notes does develop, it may not continue or it may not be sufficiently liquid to allow holders to resell any of the Senior Notes. Consequently, investors may not be able to liquidate their investment readily, and lenders may not readily accept the Senior Notes as collateral for loans.

The Senior Notes may trade at a discount from their initial issue price or principal amount, depending upon many factors, including prevailing interest rates, the market for similar securities and other factors, including general economic conditions and our financial condition, performance and prospects. Any decline in trading prices, regardless of cause, may adversely affect the liquidity and trading markets for the Senior Notes.

We depend upon our subsidiaries for cash flow to service our debt, and the Senior Notes are structurally subordinated to the payment of the indebtedness, lease and other liabilities and any preferred equity of our subsidiaries.

We are the sole obligor on the Senior Notes. We derive all of our revenue and cash flow from our subsidiaries and our ability to service our debt, including the Senior Notes, is substantially dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and their ability to make cash available to us. In addition, most of our contractual and other obligations are obligations of our subsidiaries and thus structurally senior to our obligations on the Senior Notes. None of our subsidiaries guarantee the Senior Notes. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any amounts due on the Senior Notes, or to make any funds available therefore, whether by dividend, distribution, loan or other payments, and the rights of holders of Senior Notes to benefits from any of the assets of our subsidiaries are structurally subordinated to the claims of our subsidiaries' creditors and any preferred equity holders. As a result, the Senior Notes are structurally subordinated to the prior payment and satisfaction of all of the existing and future debts, liabilities and obligations, including payment obligations under the HPT lease agreements, trade payables and any preferred equity, of our subsidiaries. Any future subsidiary debt or obligation, whether or not secured, or any preferred equity of our subsidiaries will have priority over the Senior Notes. As of December 31, 2012, our subsidiaries had total indebtedness of \$58.2 million, consisting solely of letters of credit outstanding under our credit facility under which our subsidiaries are either co-borrowers or guarantors, and deferred rent obligations of \$150 million, which are structurally senior to the Senior Notes. Our deferred rent is due in two installments, \$107.1 million due on December 31, 2022, and \$42.9 million due on June 30, 2024.

Table of Contents

The Senior Notes are not rated.

The Senior Notes are not rated by any rating agency. Unrated securities usually trade at a discount to similar rated securities. As a result, the Senior Notes may trade at a price that is lower than they might otherwise trade if rated by a rating agency. It is possible, however, that one or more rating agencies might independently determine to assign a rating to the Senior Notes. In addition, we may elect to issue other securities for which we may seek to obtain a rating. If any ratings are assigned to the Senior Notes in the future or if we issue other securities with a rating, such ratings, if they are lower than market expectations or are subsequently lowered or withdrawn, could adversely affect the market for or the market value of the Senior Notes.

Redemption may adversely affect noteholders' return on the Senior Notes.

We have the right to redeem some or all of the Senior Notes prior to maturity. We may redeem the Senior Notes at times when prevailing interest rates may be relatively low compared to prevailing rates at the time of issuance of the Senior Notes. Accordingly, noteholders may not be able to reinvest the redemption proceeds in a comparable security at an effective interest rate as high as that of the Senior Notes.

Item 1B. *Unresolved Staff Comments*

None.

Item 2. *Properties*

Our principal executive offices are located at 24601 Center Ridge Road, Suite 200, Westlake, Ohio 44145-5639. We operate two distribution centers in leased warehouse facilities located at 329 Mason Road, LaVergne, Tennessee 37086 and 3402 West Buckeye Road, Suite 115, Phoenix, Arizona 85043, and an electronics equipment depot in leased space located at 120 North Martinwood Road, Knoxville, Tennessee 37923. We also conduct some corporate office business from RMR's premises at Two Newton Place, 255 Washington Street, Suite 300, Newton, Massachusetts 02458.

As of December 31, 2012, our travel center business consisted of 243 travel centers, 185 of which were leased from HPT, 25 of which we owned, two of which were owned by parties other than HPT and leased to or managed by us, 29 of which were owned, or leased from others, by our franchisees and two of which we operated for a joint venture in which we own a minority interest. We operated 208 of these travel centers and our franchisees operated 35 of these travel centers. We own eight vacant parcels of land and many of our operating travel centers are located on land parcels which are not fully developed; we may decide to build additional travel centers or other facilities on these parcels in the future.

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

The table below summarizes by state information as of December 31, 2012, regarding branding and ownership of the travel centers we operate. Similar information for the travel centers our franchisees operate is included under the heading "Relationships with Franchisees" in Item 1 of this Annual Report.

| | Brand Affiliation of Sites ⁽¹⁾ | | | Ownership of Sites by: ⁽¹⁾ | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | TA | Petro | Total | TA | HPT | Joint Venture | Others ⁽²⁾ |
| Alabama | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Arizona ⁽³⁾ | 4 | 2 | 6 | | 6 | | |
| Arkansas | 2 | 2 | 4 | | 4 | | |
| California | 10 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 9 | 2 | |
| Colorado | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | | |
| Connecticut | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | | |
| Florida | 6 | 1 | 7 | | 7 | | |
| Georgia | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 8 | | |
| Idaho | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Illinois | 7 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 7 | | |
| Indiana | 7 | 6 | 13 | 7 | 6 | | |
| Iowa | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Kansas ⁽³⁾ | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Kentucky | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | | |
| Louisiana | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | | |
| Maryland | 3 | | 3 | | 3 | | |
| Michigan | 6 | | 6 | 2 | 4 | | |
| Minnesota | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Mississippi | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Missouri | 4 | 1 | 5 | | 5 | | |
| Nebraska | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | | |
| Nevada | 3 | 2 | 5 | | 5 | | |
| New Hampshire | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| New Jersey | 3 | 1 | 4 | | 4 | | |
| New Mexico | 5 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | | |
| New York | 5 | 1 | 6 | | 6 | | |
| North Carolina | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | | |
| Ohio | 10 | 4 | 14 | | 14 | | |
| Oklahoma | 3 | 1 | 4 | | 4 | | |
| Oregon | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | | |
| Pennsylvania | 8 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 9 | | |
| South Carolina | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | 1 |
| Tennessee | 5 | 2 | 7 | | 7 | | |
| Texas | 11 | 7 | 18 | 3 | 15 | | |
| Utah | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Virginia | 4 | | 4 | | 4 | | |
| Washington | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | | |
| West Virginia | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Wisconsin | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | | |
| Wyoming | 3 | 1 | 4 | | 4 | | |
| Ontario, Canada | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Total | 151 | 57 | 208 | 25 | 179 | 2 | 2 |

(1) Includes only sites we operate and excludes sites operated by franchisees.

(2) We lease these sites from, or manage these sites for, parties other than HPT.

(3)

During January and February 2013 we acquired one site each in Arizona and Kansas.

Table of Contents**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

The disclosure under the heading "Legal Proceedings" in Note 17 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 15 of this Annual Report is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

PART II**Item 5. Market for Our Common Equity, Related Shareholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Market information. The following table sets forth for the periods indicated the high and low sale prices for our common shares as reported by the NYSE MKT (previously the NYSE Amex).

| 2012 | High | Low |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| First Quarter | \$ 6.84 | \$ 4.29 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 6.74 | \$ 4.21 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 5.84 | \$ 4.67 |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 5.47 | \$ 4.18 |

| 2011 | High | Low |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| First Quarter | \$ 12.63 | \$ 3.65 |
| Second Quarter | \$ 8.43 | \$ 4.39 |
| Third Quarter | \$ 5.84 | \$ 3.46 |
| Fourth Quarter | \$ 5.55 | \$ 2.79 |

The closing price of our common shares on NYSE MKT on March 14, 2013, was \$7.59 per share.

Holdings. As of March 14, 2013, there were approximately 800 shareholders of record of our common shares and we believe that there are approximately 18,500 beneficial owners of our common shares.

Dividends. We have never paid or declared any cash dividends on our common shares. At present, we intend to retain our future earnings, if any, to fund the operations and growth of our business. Furthermore, our credit facility restricts our payment of cash dividends on our common shares, unless certain requirements under the credit facility are met, including that excess availability is not less than 20% after any such payment, and our rent deferral agreement with HPT prohibits us from paying any dividends while any deferred rent remains unpaid. Our future decisions concerning the payment of dividends on our common shares will depend upon our results of operations, financial condition and capital expenditure plans, as well as other factors as our Board of Directors, in its discretion, may consider relevant, and the extent to which the declaration or payment of dividends may be limited by agreements we have entered or cause us to lose the benefits of certain of our agreements.

Stock issuable under equity compensation plans. The equity compensation plan information set forth in Item 12 of this Annual Report is incorporated by reference herein.

Recent sales of unregistered securities. There were no sales of our unregistered securities by us during the fourth quarter of 2012.

Table of Contents**Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

The following table presents selected historical financial information for each of the last five fiscal years. The information set forth below with respect to fiscal years 2012, 2011 and 2010 was derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, the audited consolidated financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report. The information set forth below with respect to fiscal years 2009 and 2008 was derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, the audited consolidated financial statements included in our 2009 Annual Report on Form 10-K. However, certain statement of operations and comprehensive income (loss) data and balance sheet data presented in the following table for the years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008, were revised from originally reported financial data, as described in our 2011 Annual Report on Form 10-K. The following information should also be read in conjunction with "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

| (dollars and gallons in thousands, except per share data) | Years Ended December 31, | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 |
| Statement of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) | | | | | |
| Data: | | | | | |
| Revenues: | | | | | |
| Fuel | \$ 6,636,297 | \$ 6,603,329 | \$ 4,790,659 | \$ 3,588,682 | \$ 6,454,357 |
| Nonfuel | 1,344,755 | 1,271,085 | 1,158,343 | 1,097,279 | 1,189,597 |
| Rent and royalties from franchisees | 14,672 | 14,443 | 13,479 | 13,859 | 14,425 |
| Total revenues | 7,995,724 | 7,888,857 | 5,962,481 | 4,699,820 | 7,658,379 |
| Income (loss) from operations | 41,470 | 32,400 | (42,034) | (80,994) | (36,473) |
| Net income (loss) | 32,198 | 23,574 | (66,690) | (95,085) | (42,819) |
| Income (loss) per common share: | | | | | |
| Basic and diluted | \$ 1.12 | \$ 0.98 | \$ (3.84) | \$ (5.70) | \$ (2.82) |
| Balance Sheet Data (end of period): | | | | | |
| Total assets | \$ 1,018,281 | \$ 1,016,531 | \$ 891,092 | \$ 877,610 | \$ 886,085 |
| Sale/leaseback financing obligation, noncurrent portion ⁽¹⁾ | 82,195 | 97,765 | 99,960 | 102,006 | 103,634 |
| Deferred rent obligation ⁽²⁾ | 150,000 | 150,000 | 150,000 | 90,000 | 30,000 |
| Other Operating Data: | | | | | |
| Total fuel sold ⁽³⁾ | 2,039,960 | 2,087,416 | 2,036,756 | 1,933,358 | 2,078,061 |
| Number of sites (end of period): | | | | | |
| Company operated travel centers | 208 | 194 | 188 | 188 | 188 |
| Franchisee operated travel centers | 6 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Franchisee owned and operated travel centers | 29 | 33 | 30 | 35 | 35 |
| Total travel centers | 243 | 237 | 228 | 233 | 233 |

Notes to Selected Financial Data

(1) Accounting for the HPT Transaction under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, required us to recognize in our consolidated balance sheet the leased assets at thirteen of the travel centers previously owned by our predecessor that we now lease from HPT because more than a minor portion of those travel centers is subleased to third parties, and one travel center did not qualify for operating lease treatment for other reasons. A portion of the total rent payments to HPT is recognized as a reduction of the sale/leaseback financing obligation and a portion is recognized as interest expense in our consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive income (loss). See Note 16 in Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15 of this Annual Report for discussion of our sale/leaseback financing obligation.

(2) Our rent deferral agreement with HPT permitted us to defer up to \$5,000 per month of rent due to HPT from July 2008 through December 2010. In January 2011, the deferral agreement was amended and, among other things, the payment date of the deferred rent obligation was revised such that \$107,085 is due in December 2022, \$42,915 is due in June 2024 and the obligation does not bear interest unless certain events provided in the Amendment Agreement occur.

(3)

Includes all fuel we sold, both at our retail travel centers sites and also on a wholesale basis including to certain of our franchisees, but excludes the retail fuel sales at travel centers operated by our franchisees.

Table of Contents

Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

(dollars in thousands)

Overview

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the financial statements included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Our revenues and income are subject to potentially material changes as a result of the market prices and availability of fuel. These factors are subject to the worldwide petroleum products supply chain, which historically has incurred price and supply volatility and, in some cases, shocks as a result of, among other things, severe weather, terrorism, political crises, wars and other military actions and variations in demand, which are often the result of changes in the macroeconomic environment. Over the past few years there has been significant volatility in the cost of fuel. During 2010, fuel prices generally declined during the second and third quarters, then rose during the fourth quarter and those increases continued during the first quarter of 2011 due in part to the political unrest in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Fuel prices began to decline during the second quarter of 2011, and during the second half of 2011 fuel prices generally continued to decline due to, among other reasons, concerns the U.S. and global economies were sliding into another recession, although prices remained at a higher level than those experienced during 2010. Additionally, fuel prices were more volatile during 2011 than during 2010. During the first half of 2012, prices generally continued to decrease due to continued global economic concerns, including economic conditions in Europe. However, during the third quarter of 2012 fuel prices generally rose due to tensions in the Middle East and economic stimulus programs in Europe and elsewhere. During the fourth quarter of 2012, fuel prices declined and at the end of 2012 were near the prices we experienced at the end of 2011. We expect that changes in our costs for fuel products can largely be passed on to our customers, but often there are delays in passing on price changes that can affect our fuel gross margins. Although other factors have an effect, during periods of rising fuel commodity prices fuel gross margins per gallon tend to be lower than they otherwise may have been and during periods of falling fuel commodity prices fuel gross margins per gallon tend to improve. Also, fuel price increases and volatility can have negative effects on our sales and profitability and increase our working capital requirements. We expect that the fuel markets will continue to be volatile for the foreseeable future. For more information about fuel market risks that may affect us and our approaches for mitigating those risks, see Item 7A, "Qualitative and Quantitative Disclosures About Market Risk" in this Annual Report.

The condition of the U.S. economy generally, and the financial condition and activity of the trucking industry in the U.S. specifically, impacted our financial results during 2010 through 2012, and we expect that they will continue to impact our financial results in future periods. The trucking industry is the primary customer for our goods and services. Freight and trucking demand in the U.S. historically generally reflects the level of commercial activity in the U.S. economy. During the period from 2010 through 2012, the U.S. economy generally slowly improved and the financial condition and activity level in the trucking industry similarly slowly improved, but the recovery is uneven. These trends have generally promoted increased sales of our fuel and nonfuel products and services from the levels during the recent recession. However, the improving fuel efficiency of motor vehicle engines and other fuel conservation practices employed by trucking companies have reduced the demand for diesel fuel that might otherwise exist for a given level of U.S. economic activity or trucking miles driven. Reflecting these and other factors, our nonfuel revenues in 2012 increased on a same site basis over the prior year, but our 2012 fuel sales volumes on a same site basis declined compared to the prior year and the level of fuel sales volume continues to be below that experienced before the recent U.S. economic recession which we believe was affecting the trucking industry as early as in late 2007. Our results for 2011 as compared to 2010 on a same site basis reflected these same trends. Despite the year over year declines in fuel sales volumes, our fuel gross margins and fuel gross margins per gallon

Table of Contents

increased each year on a same site basis. We believe this trend primarily is attributable to market conditions and our continued focus on managing our fuel pricing to balance sales volume and profitability considerations.

While the U.S. economy slowly grew over several quarters through the third quarter of 2012 and trucking activity measures reflect slow growth in that industry, the U.S. economy, measured by the change in gross domestic product, was soft during the fourth quarter of 2012 (an increase of 0.1%), recent economic data has been mixed and the strength and sustainability of any economic recovery is uncertain. If the U.S. economy continues to operate as it has over the past few years or if it worsens, our financial results may not improve and may decline, resulting in our experiencing losses.

On January 31, 2011, we and HPT entered an Amendment Agreement that amended the HPT Leases and our rent deferral agreement with HPT. This agreement is further described under the headings "Business Our Leases With HPT" above in Item 1 of this Annual Report, and "Results of Operations Year Ended December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2010 Real estate rent expense" and "Related Party Transactions" below. This Amendment Agreement resulted in a significant reduction in our real estate rent expense and interest expense in 2012 and 2011 as compared with 2010.

On January 2, 2013, the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 became law. The law included the reinstatement, retroactive to January 1, 2012, of the "Blender's Credit for Biodiesel and Renewable Diesel". This credit had previously expired on December 31, 2011, and, accordingly, we did not recognize any benefit related to it in our 2012 operating results. We estimate that the reinstatement of this credit has entitled us to receive approximately \$3,000 of refunds related to certain fuel purchases made during 2012. We expect to recognize this amount, net of our estimate of uncollectible amounts, if any, in our operating results for the first quarter of 2013. Under the new law, the credit expires on December 31, 2013, and we expect to reflect any benefit from it in our operating results as qualifying fuel is purchased during 2013.

Summary of Travel Center Site Counts

The changes in the number of our sites and in their method of operation (company operated, franchisee leased and operated or franchisee owned and operated) can be significant factors influencing

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

the changes in our results of operations. The following table summarizes the changes in the composition of our business during the past three years:

| | Company Operated Sites ⁽¹⁾ | Franchisee Operated Sites | Franchisee Owned and Operated Sites | Total Sites |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Number of travel centers at December 31, 2009 | 188 | 10 | 35 | 233 |
| <i>2010 Activity:</i> | | | | |
| New travel centers | | | | |
| Terminated franchised travel centers | | | (5) | (5) |
| Number of travel centers at December 31, 2010 | 188 | 10 | 30 | 228 |
| <i>2011 Activity:</i> | | | | |
| Acquired travel centers | 6 | | (1) | 5 |
| New franchised travel centers | | | 4 | 4 |
| Number of travel centers at December 31, 2011 | 194 | 10 | 33 | 237 |
| <i>2012 Activity:</i> | | | | |
| Acquired travel centers | 6 | | | 6 |
| Acquisition of franchised travel centers | 8 | (4) | (4) | |
| Number of travel centers at December 31, 2012 | 208 | 6 | 29 | 243 |

⁽¹⁾ Includes at each period presented two travel centers we operate that are owned by a joint venture in which we own a minority interest.

As of December 31, 2012, we had entered into agreements to purchase four additional travel centers, one of which had been owned and operated by a franchisee under the TA brand. During January and February of 2013, we completed two of these acquisitions and two acquisitions are expected to close in the first half of 2013. The pending transactions are subject to conditions and, accordingly, may be delayed, their terms may be changed or they may not be completed.

Relevance of Fuel Revenues and Fuel Volumes

Due to the price volatility of fuel products and our pricing to fuel customers, we believe that fuel revenue is not a reliable metric for analyzing our results of operations from period to period. As a result solely of changes in fuel prices, our fuel revenue may materially increase or decrease, in both absolute amounts and on a percentage basis, without a comparable change in fuel sales volumes or in fuel gross margin per gallon. We consider fuel volumes and fuel gross margin to be better measures of comparative performance than fuel revenues. However, fuel pricing and revenues can impact our working capital requirements; see "Liquidity and Capital Resources" below.

Table of Contents**Results of Operations** (dollars and gallons in thousands)*Year ended December 31, 2012 compared to December 31, 2011*

The following table presents changes in our operating results for the year ended December 31, 2012, as compared with the year ended December 31, 2011.

| (dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | Change | % Change |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Fuel | \$ 6,636,297 | \$ 6,603,329 | \$ 32,968 | 0.5% |
| Nonfuel | 1,344,755 | 1,271,085 | 73,670 | 5.8% |
| Rent and royalties from franchisees | 14,672 | 14,443 | 229 | 1.6% |
| Total revenues | 7,995,724 | 7,888,857 | 106,867 | 1.4% |
| Cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation) | | | | |
| Fuel | 6,310,250 | 6,301,947 | 8,303 | 0.1% |
| Nonfuel | 599,474 | 548,092 | 51,382 | 9.4% |
| Total cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation) | 6,909,724 | 6,850,039 | 59,685 | 0.9% |
| Operating expenses: | | | | |
| Site level operating expenses | 698,522 | 677,958 | 20,564 | 3.0% |
| Selling, general & administrative expense | 95,547 | 89,196 | 6,351 | 7.1% |
| Real estate rent | 198,927 | 191,798 | 7,129 | 3.7% |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 51,534 | 47,466 | 4,068 | 8.6% |
| Total operating expenses | 1,044,530 | 1,006,418 | 38,112 | 3.8% |
| Income from operations | 41,470 | 32,400 | 9,070 | 28.0% |
| Income from equity investees | 1,877 | 1,169 | 708 | 60.6% |
| Acquisition costs | (785) | (446) | (339) | 76.0% |
| Interest income | 1,485 | 835 | 650 | 77.8% |
| Interest expense | (10,358) | (9,005) | (1,353) | 15.0% |
| Income before income taxes | 33,689 | 24,953 | 8,736 | 35.0% |
| Provision for income taxes | 1,491 | 1,379 | 112 | 8.1% |
| Net income | \$ 32,198 | \$ 23,574 | \$ 8,624 | 36.6% |

Same Site Results Comparisons

As part of the discussion and analysis of our operating results we sometimes refer to increases and decreases in results on a same site basis. For purposes of these comparisons, we include a travel center in the following same site comparisons only if we (or a franchisee of ours for purposes only of the rent and royalty revenues results) continuously operated it from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012. We do not exclude travel centers from the same site comparisons as a result of expansions in their size or changes in the services offered. We excluded from the same site comparisons the two travel centers we operate for a joint venture in which we own a 40% interest because we account for this investment using the equity method of accounting and, therefore, the related revenues and expenses are not included in the respective line items in our consolidated results of operations. Two

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

company operated travel centers were excluded from this same site comparison because they were temporarily closed during significant portions of 2011 as a result of flooding.

| (gallons and dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | | % Change Favorable/ (Unfavorable) |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change | |
| Number of company operated travel centers | 184 | 184 | | |
| Fuel: ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| Sales volume (gallons) | 1,868,867 | 1,951,359 | (82,492) | (4.2)% |
| Revenues | \$ 6,089,938 | \$ 6,182,799 | \$ (92,861) | (1.5)% |
| Gross margin | \$ 311,404 | \$ 292,987 | \$ 18,417 | 6.3% |
| Gross margin per gallon | \$ 0.167 | \$ 0.150 | \$ 0.017 | 11.3% |
| Nonfuel: ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 1,288,936 | \$ 1,249,467 | \$ 39,469 | 3.2% |
| Gross margin | \$ 714,918 | \$ 710,807 | \$ 4,111 | 0.6% |
| Gross margin percentage | 55.5% | 56.9% | | (140)b.p. |
| Total gross margin ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 1,026,322 | \$ 1,003,794 | \$ 22,528 | 2.2% |
| Site level operating expenses ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 660,663 | \$ 658,559 | \$ 2,104 | (0.3)% |
| Site level operating expenses as a percentage of nonfuel revenues ⁽¹⁾ | 51.3% | 52.7% | | 140b.p. |
| Site level gross margin in excess of site level operating expenses ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 365,659 | \$ 345,235 | \$ 20,424 | 5.9% |
| Number of franchisee operated travel centers | 31 | 31 | | |
| Rent and royalty revenues | \$ 11,062 | \$ 10,025 | \$ 1,037 | 10.3% |

⁽¹⁾ Includes fuel sales volume, revenues and site level operating expenses for only those travel centers that were company operated during the entirety of the period from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012.

Revenues. Revenues for 2012, were \$7,995,724, which represented an increase from 2011, of \$106,867, or 1.4%, primarily related to an increase in nonfuel revenue.

Fuel revenues for 2012, were \$6,636,297, an increase of \$32,968, or 0.5%, compared to 2011. This increase was principally the result of increases in fuel prices and fuel sales at travel centers we acquired during 2011 and 2012. These increases were partially offset by decreases in same site fuel sales volume and also offset by decreases in gallons sold to franchisees. The decreased level of sales volume to franchisees resulted from the sublease renewals entered in the second half of 2012, which increased our rent revenue but eliminated the requirement that these subtenants purchase diesel fuel from us. The

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

table below shows the changes in fuel revenues between periods that resulted from price and volume changes:

| (gallons and dollars in thousands) | Gallons Sold | Fuel Revenues |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Results for 2011 | 2,087,416 | \$ 6,603,329 |
| Increase due to petroleum products price changes | | 189,335 |
| Decrease due to same site volume changes | (82,492) | (269,694) |
| Increase due to travel centers acquired | 54,559 | 177,480 |
| Decrease in sales to franchisees | (19,464) | (63,808) |
| Other changes, net | (59) | (345) |
| Net change from prior year period | (47,456) | 32,968 |
| Results for 2012 | 2,039,960 | \$ 6,636,297 |

On a same site basis, fuel sales volume for our company operated travel centers decreased by 82,492 gallons, or 4.2%, during 2012, compared to 2011. We believe that improved fuel efficiency of heavy truck engines and other fuel conservation efforts by trucking customers, capital projects that required us to take certain diesel dispensers temporarily out of service during the year, and our decision to avoid certain lower margin fuel sales contributed to decreased same site fuel sales volume despite the slight and slow improvement in the U.S. economy generally and the trucking industry specifically.

Nonfuel revenues for 2012, were \$1,344,755, an increase of \$73,670, or 5.8%, compared to 2011. The majority of the change between years related to those sites we operated continuously since January 1, 2011. On a same site basis for our company operated sites, nonfuel revenues increased by \$39,469, or 3.2%, during 2012, compared to 2011. We believe the same site nonfuel revenue increase reflects increased customer spending due to increased customer traffic, certain price increases we have instituted as a result of increased prices we paid for nonfuel inventory purchases and the effects of certain of our capital investments and marketing initiatives. The increase in nonfuel revenues was also the result of sales at the travel centers we acquired or opened during 2011 and 2012.

Rent and royalty revenues for 2012, were \$14,672, an increase of \$229, or 1.6%, compared to the same period in 2011. Rent and royalties increased as a result of increased nonfuel revenues at our franchisee locations, the addition of four franchisee locations since the beginning of 2011 and increased rents at six sites currently subleased to franchisees that became effective during the second half of 2012. These increases were partially offset by our acquisitions during 2011 and 2012 of five franchisee travel centers and the operations of the businesses at four travel centers that had been subleased from us.

Cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation). Cost of goods sold for 2012, was \$6,909,724, an increase of \$59,685, or 0.9%, compared to 2011. Fuel cost of goods sold for 2012 was \$6,310,250, an increase of \$8,303, or 0.1%, compared to 2011. This increase in fuel cost of goods sold resulted from the increase in fuel prices that was partially offset by the decrease in fuel sales volumes. The fuel gross margin per gallon of \$0.167 on a same site basis for 2012 increased \$0.017 per gallon, primarily as a result of our decision to avoid certain lower margin sales.

Nonfuel cost of goods sold for 2012, was \$599,474, an increase of \$51,382, or 9.4%, compared to 2011. Nonfuel cost of goods sold increased due to the nonfuel sales increases noted above, combined with increases in product unit costs. Nonfuel gross margin for 2012, was \$745,281, compared to \$722,993 during 2011. Nonfuel gross margin was 55.4% and 56.9% of nonfuel revenues during 2012 and 2011, respectively. The nonfuel gross margin percentage decreased primarily as a result of a shift in our mix of products and services sold, margin compression in our truck service sales largely due to increased tire prices and increased price competition, a decision to lower our retail prices for tobacco products in order to encourage higher sales volumes of store products, and delays in reflecting certain product cost increases in our retail sales pricing.

Table of Contents

Site level operating expenses. Site level operating expenses for 2012, were \$698,522, an increase of \$20,564, or 3.0%, compared to 2011. The increase in site level operating expenses primarily was due to the travel centers and businesses we acquired or opened during 2011 and 2012, including site conversion or startup costs of \$1,655 in 2012 and \$411 in 2011, and also resulted from adjustments to reserves for certain environmental and litigation matters of \$2,525 in 2012 compared to \$1,622 in 2011.

On a same site basis for our company operated sites, site level operating expenses increased by \$2,104, or 0.3%, for 2012, compared to 2011, primarily due to increased labor costs resulting from the increased level of nonfuel sales. Site level operating expenses as a percentage of nonfuel revenues for 2012, were 51.3%, compared to 52.7% for 2011 on a same site basis. The decrease in operating expenses as a percentage of nonfuel revenues primarily was because certain of our expenses are fixed, or otherwise do not vary directly with sales so that increases in our revenues did not result in corresponding increases in those site level operating expenses.

Selling, general and administrative expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2012, were \$95,547, an increase of \$6,351, or 7.1%, compared to 2011. This increase primarily resulted from increases in legal expenses and personnel costs. The increased personnel costs resulted in part from increased headcount in regional operations management due to the increased number of company operated travel centers during 2012.

Real estate rent expense. Rent expense for 2012 was \$198,927, an increase of \$7,129, or 3.7%, compared to 2011 that primarily resulted from the increases in rent as a result of improvements sold to HPT during 2011 and 2012 and estimated percentage rent recognized under the TA Lease based on increases in 2012 fuel and nonfuel revenues over the 2011 amounts at the sites leased under the TA Lease.

Depreciation and amortization expense. Depreciation and amortization expense for 2012, was \$51,534, an increase of \$4,068, or 8.6%, compared to 2011, that primarily resulted from an increase in depreciable assets due in large part to the acquisitions we completed during 2011 and 2012.

Interest expense. Interest expense consisted of the following:

| (dollars in thousands) | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | Change |
| Rent expense classified as interest | \$ 7,330 | \$ 7,390 | \$ (60) |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 352 | 403 | (51) |
| Other interest expense | 2,676 | 1,212 | 1,464 |
| Total interest expense | \$ 10,358 | \$ 9,005 | \$ 1,353 |

Income tax provision. Our provision for income taxes was \$1,491 and \$1,379 for 2012 and 2011, respectively. We do not currently recognize the benefit of all of our deferred tax assets, including the tax benefit associated with our tax loss carry forwards from prior years, but our tax loss carry forwards do offset any federal and certain state income tax associated with our current taxable income. Our income tax provision represents certain minimum income based state taxes payable without regard to our tax loss carry forwards as well as the recognition of deferred tax liabilities that cannot be used to reduce existing deferred tax assets related to the tax amortization of indefinite lived intangible assets and to foreign currency translation adjustments.

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

Year ended December 31, 2011 compared to December 31, 2010

The following table presents changes in our operating results for the year ended December 31, 2011, as compared with the year ended December 31, 2010.

| (dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | Change | % Change |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| | 2011 | 2010 | | |
| Revenues: | | | | |
| Fuel | \$ 6,603,329 | \$ 4,790,659 | \$ 1,812,670 | 37.8% |
| Nonfuel | 1,271,085 | 1,158,343 | 112,742 | 9.7% |
| Rent and royalties from franchisees | 14,443 | 13,479 | 964 | 7.2% |
| Total revenues | 7,888,857 | 5,962,481 | 1,926,376 | 32.3% |
| Cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation) | | | | |
| Fuel | 6,301,947 | 4,530,943 | 1,771,004 | 39.1% |
| Nonfuel | 548,092 | 488,687 | 59,405 | 12.2% |
| Total cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation) | 6,850,039 | 5,019,630 | 1,830,409 | 36.5% |
| Operating expenses: | | | | |
| Site level operating expenses | 677,958 | 625,979 | 51,979 | 8.3% |
| Selling, general & administrative expense | 89,196 | 80,562 | 8,634 | 10.7% |
| Real estate rent | 191,798 | 234,228 | (42,430) | -18.1% |
| Depreciation and amortization expense | 47,466 | 44,116 | 3,350 | 7.6% |
| Total operating expenses | 1,006,418 | 984,885 | 21,533 | 2.2% |
| Income (loss) from operations | 32,400 | (42,034) | 74,434 | N/M |
| Income from equity investees | 1,169 | 757 | 412 | 54.4% |
| Acquisition costs | (446) | | (446) | N/M |
| Interest income | 835 | 1,127 | (292) | -25.9% |
| Interest expense | (9,005) | (25,653) | 16,648 | -64.9% |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 24,953 | (65,803) | 90,756 | N/M |
| Provision for income taxes | 1,379 | 887 | 492 | 55.5% |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 23,574 | \$ (66,690) | \$ 90,264 | N/M |

Same Site Results Comparisons

As part of the discussion and analysis of our operating results we sometimes refer to increases and decreases in results on a same site basis. For purposes of these comparisons, we include a travel center in the following same site comparisons only if we (or a franchisee of ours for purposes only of the rent and royalty revenues results) continuously operated it from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2011. We do not exclude travel centers from the same site comparisons as a result of expansions in their size or changes in the services offered. We excluded from the same site comparisons the two travel centers we operate for a joint venture in which we own a 40% interest because we account for this investment using the equity method of accounting and, therefore, the related revenues and expenses are not included in the respective line items in our consolidated results of operations. Two

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

company operated travel centers were excluded from this same site comparison because they were temporarily closed during significant portions of the 2010 or 2011 periods as a result of flooding.

| (gallons and dollars in thousands) | Years Ended December 31, | | | % Change Favorable/ (Unfavorable) |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|
| | 2011 | 2010 | Change | |
| Number of company operated travel centers | 184 | 184 | | |
| Fuel: ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| Sales volume (gallons) | 1,951,359 | 1,951,480 | (121) | 0.0% |
| Revenues | \$ 6,182,799 | \$ 4,600,897 | \$ 1,581,902 | 34.4% |
| Gross margin | \$ 293,049 | \$ 258,342 | \$ 34,707 | 13.4% |
| Gross margin per gallon | \$ 0.150 | \$ 0.132 | \$ 0.018 | 13.6% |
| Nonfuel: ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| Revenues | \$ 1,249,354 | \$ 1,153,044 | \$ 96,310 | 8.4% |
| Gross margin | \$ 711,155 | \$ 666,410 | \$ 44,745 | 6.7% |
| Gross margin percentage | 56.9% | 57.8% | | (90)b.p. |
| Total gross margin ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 1,004,204 | \$ 924,752 | \$ 79,452 | 8.6% |
| Site level operating expenses ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 659,812 | \$ 620,929 | \$ 38,883 | (6.3)% |
| Site level operating expenses as a percentage of nonfuel revenues ⁽¹⁾ | 52.8% | 53.9% | | 110b.p. |
| Site level gross margin in excess of site level operating expenses ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 344,392 | \$ 303,823 | \$ 40,569 | 13.4% |
| Number of franchisee operated travel centers | 39 | 39 | | |
| Rent and royalty revenues | \$ 13,491 | \$ 13,012 | \$ 479 | 3.7% |

(1) Includes fuel sales volume, revenues and expenses of company operated travel centers only.

Revenues. Revenues for 2011, were \$7,888,857, which represented an increase from 2010, of \$1,926,376, or 32.3%, primarily related to an increase in fuel revenue.

Fuel revenues for 2011 were \$6,603,329, an increase of \$1,812,670, or 37.8%, compared to 2010. This increase was principally the result of increases in fuel prices and also resulted from increased fuel sales volume. The table below shows the changes in fuel revenues between periods that resulted from price and volume changes:

| (gallons and dollars in thousands) | Gallons Sold | Fuel Revenues |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Results for 2010 | 2,036,756 | \$ 4,790,659 |
| Increase due to petroleum products price changes | | 1,656,138 |
| Decrease due to same site volume changes | (121) | (3,102) |
| Increase due to travel centers acquired | 26,734 | 84,511 |
| Other changes, net | 24,047 | 75,123 |
| Net change from prior year period | 50,660 | 1,812,670 |
| Results for 2011 | 2,087,416 | \$ 6,603,329 |

The increase in our fuel sales volume was largely a result of the travel centers we acquired in 2011. On a same site basis for our company operated sites, fuel sales volume for the year ended December 31, 2011, was largely unchanged as compared to the prior year. We believe that our same site fuel sales volume was negatively affected by the capital projects begun in 2011 to replace fuel dispensers and install diesel exhaust fluid dispensers, which required us to take certain diesel dispensers out of service during the year.

Table of Contents

Nonfuel revenues for 2011 were \$1,271,085, an increase of \$112,742, or 9.7%, compared to the same period in 2010. The change between years primarily resulted from sales at our travel centers opened during the second quarter of 2011, an increase in unit sales on a same site basis and sales price increases. On a same site basis for our company operated travel centers, nonfuel revenues increased by \$96,310, or 8.4% during 2011 compared to 2010. We believe the same site nonfuel revenue increase reflects increased customer spending due to increased customer traffic, certain price increases we instituted as a result of increased prices we paid for nonfuel purchases and the effects of certain of our marketing efforts.

Rent and royalty revenues for 2011 were \$14,443, an increase of \$964, or 7.2%, compared to 2010. Rent and royalties increased as a result of increased nonfuel revenues at our franchisee locations, increases in rents at the ten franchisee operated locations we sublease to franchisees and the addition of four franchisee locations during 2011. These increases were partially offset by the effects of the termination of one franchisee travel center in December 2010 (which travel center we subsequently acquired in June 2011 and we now operate) and our acquisition in May 2011 of one franchise travel center that we now operate.

Cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation). Cost of goods sold for 2011 was \$6,850,039, an increase of \$1,830,409, or 36.5%, compared to 2010. Fuel cost of goods sold for 2011 of \$6,301,947 increased by \$1,771,004, or 39.1%, compared to 2010. This increase in fuel cost of goods sold primarily resulted from the increases in fuel prices and fuel sales volumes. The fuel gross margin per gallon of \$0.150 per gallon on a same site basis for 2011 was \$0.018 per gallon higher than for 2010 primarily as a result of variations in market prices for fuel, consolidation within our industry and our decisions to forgo certain low margin sales.

Nonfuel cost of goods sold for 2011, was \$548,092, an increase of \$59,405, or 12.2%, compared to the same period in 2010. Nonfuel cost of goods sold increased due to the nonfuel sales increases discussed above, combined with increases in product unit costs we incurred. Nonfuel gross margin for 2011 was \$722,993, compared to \$669,656 during 2010. Nonfuel gross margin for 2011 on a same site basis was 56.9% of nonfuel revenues, compared to 57.8% during 2010. The decline in the nonfuel gross margin percentage between periods primarily resulted from our decisions in late 2010 and early 2011 to lower our retail prices for tobacco products in order to encourage higher sales volumes of store products. The decline in nonfuel gross margin percentage was also due to the fixed margin per unit we receive for certain products with increasing retail prices and some delays in passing on to our customers a portion of product cost increases we incurred.

Site level operating expenses. Site level operating expenses for 2011 were \$677,958, an increase of \$51,979, or 8.3%, compared to 2010. For 2011, site level operating expenses as a percentage of nonfuel sales improved to 53.3% from 54.0% during 2010. The increase in site level operating expenses was largely attributable to the additional travel centers in operation during 2011 as compared to 2010. The remaining increase in site level operating expenses was primarily attributable to increased labor costs we incurred at same site travel centers, which principally increased to support the increases in our nonfuel sales levels. During 2011, we also experienced increases in maintenance and utilities expenses and in other expenses that primarily resulted from the increased level of sales activity and an increase in accruals for certain litigation matters. Further, we experienced an increase of \$8,646 in transaction fees primarily as a result of the significant increase in per gallon fuel prices as compared to the prior year and an increase in the transaction fee rates charged by Comdata that became effective during the first quarter of 2011 for fuel purchases made by our customers with Comdata's fuel payment cards.

On a same site basis, site level operating expenses for our company operated travel centers increased by \$38,883, or 6.3%, for 2011 compared to 2010 and site level operating expenses as a percentage of nonfuel revenues for 2011 were 52.8%, compared to 53.9% for 2010. The decrease in site level operating expenses as a percentage of nonfuel revenues primarily was because certain of our

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

expenses are fixed in nature, or otherwise do not vary directly with sales, so that increases in our revenues did not result in corresponding increases in those site level operating expenses.

Selling, general and administrative expenses. Selling, general and administrative expenses for 2011 were \$89,196, an increase of \$8,634, or 10.7%, compared to 2010. This increase primarily resulted from increases in legal expenses, personnel costs, including recognition of share based compensation expense that increased based on a higher share price on the date of grant of restricted shares than in the previous year as well as a larger number of share grants vesting during 2011 than during 2010, advertising expenses increases and an increase in the fees paid to RMR under the business management and shared services agreement as a result of increases in our fuel gross margin and nonfuel revenues.

Real estate rent expense. Rent expense for 2011 was \$191,798, a decrease of \$42,430 compared to 2010. This decrease resulted from the lower rent we are required to pay due to the amendment to our HPT Leases entered in January 2011. Pursuant to the Amendment Agreement, the total annual minimum rent payable to HPT under the HPT Leases was reduced by \$42,000 to \$189,299, with a scheduled increase to \$194,299 in February 2012.

Depreciation and amortization expense. Depreciation and amortization expense for 2011 was \$47,466, an increase of \$3,350, or 7.6%, compared to the same period in 2010 that primarily resulted from our site acquisitions and other property and equipment additions in 2011.

Interest income and expense. The decline in interest expense was primarily related to the amendment to our HPT Leases and rent deferral agreement we entered with HPT effective January 1, 2011, which ceased the accrual of interest on the deferred rent amounts we owe to HPT. Interest income and expense consisted of the following:

| (dollars in thousands) | Year Ended December 31, | | Change |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | 2011 | 2010 | |
| Accretion of leasehold improvements receivable | \$ | \$ 248 | \$ (248) |
| Other interest income | | 835 | 879 (44) |
| Total interest income | \$ | \$ 835 | \$ 1,127 (292) |
| Rent expense classified as interest | \$ | 7,390 | \$ 9,900 (2,510) |
| Interest on deferred rent obligation to HPT | | | 14,100 (14,100) |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | | 403 | 285 118 |
| Other interest expense | | 1,212 | 1,368 (156) |
| Total interest expense | \$ | \$ 9,005 | \$ 25,653 (16,648) |

Income tax provision. Our provision for income taxes was \$1,379 and \$887 for 2011 and 2010, respectively. We do not currently recognize the benefit of all of our deferred tax assets, including the tax benefit associated with our tax loss carry forwards from prior years, but our tax loss carry forwards do offset any federal and certain state income tax associated with our current taxable income. Our income tax provision represents certain minimum income based state taxes payable without regard to our tax loss carry forwards as well as the recognition of deferred tax liabilities that cannot be used to reduce existing deferred tax assets related to the tax amortization of indefinite lived intangible assets and to foreign currency translation adjustments.

Critical Accounting Policies

The preparation of our financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses

Table of Contents

and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. The critical accounting policies we employ in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements are those which involve allowances for doubtful accounts receivable, asset impairments, loyalty program reserves, reserves for self insurance, environmental liabilities and recoveries, legal contingencies, income tax accounting and accounting for leases.

We maintain our allowances for doubtful accounts receivable based on historical payment patterns, aging of accounts receivable, periodic review of customers' financial condition, and actual write off history. If the financial conditions of customers deteriorate, resulting in impairments of their ability to make payments, additional allowances may be required.

Our accounting policies require recording impairment losses on long lived assets to reduce the carrying value of certain assets to their fair value. For purposes of our impairment analysis of property and equipment, we perform the test at the individual travel center level, since this is the lowest grouping of assets and liabilities at which the related cash flows are largely independent of other assets and liabilities. The need to recognize impairment losses may occur under our policies in two types of circumstances. When assets are used in operations and events and circumstances indicate that the assets might be impaired, we record impairments whenever the carrying values of those assets exceed the estimated fair values of those assets at the specific travel center. When assets are to be disposed of and their carrying values exceed the estimated fair value of the asset less the estimated cost to sell the asset, we record an impairment charge. Our estimates of fair value are based on our estimates of likely market participant assumptions. Key assumptions include our current expectations for projected fuel volumes, fuel gross margin, site level operating expenses and rent expense. If the business climate deteriorates our actual results may not be consistent with these assumptions and estimates. The discount rate, which is used to measure the present value of the projected future cash flows, is set using a weighted average cost of capital method that considers market and industry data as well as our specific risk factors and that is likely to be used by a market participant. The weighted-average cost of capital is our estimate of the overall after tax rate of return required by equity and debt holders of a business enterprise. We also annually assess intangible assets with indefinite lives for impairment. We use a number of assumptions and methods in preparing valuations underlying impairment tests, including estimates of future cash flows and discount rates. During 2012, our assumptions resulted in total impairment charges of \$351 related to two travel centers. Applying significantly different assumptions or valuation methods could result in different results from these impairment tests. For example, assuming a 10% decline in projected fuel sales volume and a three cents per gallon decline in projected fuel gross margins per gallon would result in an additional \$3,700 of impairment charges related to an additional seven travel centers.

We have reserves for customer loyalty programs we offer to customers, similar to frequent shopper programs offered by other retailers. Drivers enrolled in these programs earn points for certain fuel and nonfuel purchases that can be redeemed for discounts on future nonfuel products and services at our travel centers. In determining these reserves, we must estimate future expected point expirations. These estimates are based on historical point expiration patterns, adjusted for expected future changes. To the extent an estimate is inaccurate, liabilities, expenses and net income may be understated or overstated.

We are exposed to losses under insurance programs for which we pay deductibles and for which we are partially self insured up to certain stop loss amounts, including claims under our general liability, workers' compensation, motor vehicle and group health benefits policies and programs. Accruals are established under these insurance programs for both estimated losses on known claims and potential claims incurred but not asserted, based on claims histories and using actuarial methods. The most significant risk of this methodology is its dependence on claims histories, which are not always indicative of future claims. To the extent an estimate is inaccurate, liabilities, expenses and net income may be understated or overstated.

Table of Contents

We establish or adjust environmental contingency reserves when the responsibility to remediate becomes probable and the amount of associated costs is reasonably determinable. We also have a receivable for expected recoveries of certain of these estimated future environmental expenditures and cash in an escrow account to fund certain of these estimated future expenditures, resulting in an estimated net amount to be funded by us in the future. The process of determining both our estimated future costs of remediation and our estimated future recoveries of costs from insurers or others involves a high degree of management judgment based on past experiences and current and expected regulatory and insurance market conditions. To the extent an estimate is inaccurate, liabilities, expenses and net income may be understated or overstated.

We record legal contingency reserves when our liability becomes probable and when we can reasonably estimate the amount of our contingent loss. The process of estimating our liability for legal matters involves a high degree of management judgment, which is based on facts and circumstances specific to each matter and our prior experiences with similar matters that may not be indicative of future results. To the extent an estimate is inaccurate, liabilities, expenses and net income may be understated or overstated.

As part of the process of preparing our consolidated financial statements, we are required to estimate income taxes in each of the jurisdictions in which we operate. This process involves estimating actual current tax expense along with assessing temporary differences resulting from differing treatment of items for financial statement and tax purposes. These timing differences result in deferred tax assets and liabilities, which are recorded in our consolidated balance sheet. We are required to record a valuation allowance to reduce deferred tax assets if we are not able to conclude that it is more likely than not these assets will be realized. We do not currently recognize the benefit of all of our deferred tax assets, including tax loss carry forwards, that may be used to offset future taxable income because we currently do not believe that it is more likely than not that we will realize such benefit. In measuring our deferred tax assets, we considered all available evidence, both positive and negative, to determine whether, based on the weight of that evidence, a valuation allowance is needed for all or a portion of the deferred tax assets. Judgment is required in considering the relative impact of negative and positive evidence. The weight given to the potential effect of negative and positive evidence is commensurate with the extent to which it can be objectively verified. The more negative evidence that exists, the more positive evidence is necessary and the more difficult it is to support a conclusion that a valuation allowance is unnecessary. In order to assess the likelihood of realizing the benefit of these deferred tax assets, we are required to rely on our projections of future income. We believe that our history of losses coupled with the fact that we have a short history of operating profits that is limited to 2011 and 2012, creates sufficient negative evidence such that we are unable to conclude that realization of the benefit is more likely than not. As a result, we have concluded that it is appropriate to maintain a full valuation allowance against our deferred tax assets until our profitability becomes more predictable. We may reverse some or all of the valuation allowance when we believe that we will more likely than not realize the benefit of our deferred tax assets. At that time, we will record deferred tax assets as an income tax benefit in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), which will affect our results of operations. Given our profitability over the past two years and our current expectations, we believe it is reasonably likely that our estimates and assumptions regarding the valuation allowance will change in the future.

With respect to accounting for leases, each time we enter a new lease or materially modify an existing lease we evaluate its classification as either a capital lease or an operating lease. The classification of a lease as capital or operating affects whether and how the transaction is reflected in our balance sheet, as well as our recognition of rental payments as rent or interest expense. These evaluations require us to make estimates of, among other things, the remaining useful life and residual value of leased properties, appropriate discount rates and future cash flows. Incorrect assumptions or estimates may result in misclassification of our leases. Other aspects of our lease accounting policies

Table of Contents

relate to the accounting for sale/leaseback transactions, including the appropriate amortization of related deferred liabilities and any deferred gains or losses, and the accounting for lease incentives. Our lease accounting policies involve significant judgments based upon our experience, including judgments about current valuations, estimated useful lives, and salvage or residual values. In the future we may need to revise our assessments to incorporate information which is not known at the time of our previous assessments, and such revisions could increase or decrease our depreciation expense related to properties that we lease, result in the classification of some of our leases as other than operating leases or decrease the carrying values of some of our assets.

Any or all of these policies, applied in the future with the benefit of additional facts or better estimates which were not known or available at the time the various required evaluations were made, could result in revisions to estimated liabilities, adjustments to reduce assets to their fair value or recognition of expenses that may be material. However, other than as disclosed in the preceding paragraphs, we do not believe our estimates are reasonably likely to change materially in the near term.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

Our principal liquidity requirements are to meet our operating expenses, including rent, and to fund our capital expenditures, acquisitions and working capital requirements. Our principal sources of liquidity to meet these requirements are:

our cash balance including the proceeds from our Senior Notes offering completed in January 2013;

our operating cash flow;

our credit facility;

our ability to offer to sell to HPT, for an increase in our rent, improvements we make to the sites we lease from HPT, as further described below under "Related Party Transactions"; and

our ability to issue new debt and equity securities. We have an effective shelf registration statement that allows us to issue public securities, but it does not assure that there will be buyers for such securities.

Additionally, the operating real estate and developable land that we own may be financed or sold as a source of additional liquidity over time.

We believe the primary risks we face with respect to our operating cash flow are:

decreased demand for our fuel products resulting from fuel conservation and engine fuel efficiency efforts;

decreased demand for our products and services we may experience as a result of competition, particularly competition from the other two large companies in our industry, Pilot Flying J and Love's;

the negative impacts of the volatility and high level of prices for petroleum products on our gross margins and working capital requirements;

the potential negative impacts of inflation on our nonfuel cost of goods sold, on our nonfuel gross margins and working capital requirements; and

economic conditions in the U.S. and the trucking industry and the risk of a renewed economic slowdown or recession.

A reduction in our revenue without an offsetting reduction in our operating expenses may cause us to use our cash at a rate that we cannot sustain for extended periods. Further, certain of our expenses

Table of Contents

are fixed in nature, which may restrict our ability to realize a reduction in our operating expenses to offset a reduction in our revenues. Additional increases in the prices we must pay to obtain fuel, decreases in the amount of time we have to pay our trade creditors, or an increase in cash deposits required by our suppliers to secure our credit lines, may increase our working capital funding requirements materially. Also, because of the recent and current economic, industry and global credit market conditions and our historical operating losses, credit may be expensive and difficult for us to obtain.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, we had net cash inflows from operating activities of \$83,072, cash outflows from investing activities of \$172,474, and cash inflows from financing activities of \$6,322. During 2012, our cash balance decreased primarily as a result of investing \$52,070 for 14 travel center business acquisitions, our other capital investments of \$188,694 and an increase in our working capital investment. These uses of cash were partially offset by our operating profit and the \$76,754 of proceeds from our sales to HPT of improvements to the properties leased from HPT; \$8,598 of these proceeds related to improvements at the sites that did not qualify for operating lease treatment under the sale/leaseback accounting guidance and are therefore classified as cash from financing activities.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, we had net cash inflows from operating activities of \$30,141, cash outflows from investing activities of \$86,798, and cash inflows from financing activities of \$49,547. During 2011, our cash balance decreased primarily as a result of our travel center acquisitions, our other capital investments and an increase in our working capital investment. These decreases were partially offset by the \$53,135 of net proceeds from our common share offering, \$69,122 of proceeds from our sale to HPT of improvements to the properties leased from HPT and our cash from operations.

During the year ended December 31, 2010, we had cash inflows from operating activities of \$30,893 and cash outflows from investing activities of \$59,544. During 2010 our cash and cash equivalents balance decreased by \$30,236 to \$125,396. During 2010, we deferred \$60,000 of rent payable to HPT pursuant to our rent deferral agreement, incurred interest of \$14,100, payable in arrears, related to the deferred rent obligation balance and received \$7,015 of funding from HPT under the terms of the tenant improvements allowance.

Our business requires substantial amounts of working capital, including cash liquidity, and our working capital requirements are especially large because of the level and volatility of fuel prices which has existed in the past several years and which we expect will continue. Although we had a cash balance of \$35,189 on December 31, 2012, generated net income and net cash from operating activities in 2012 and raised \$105,200 of net proceeds from the sale of Senior Notes during 2013, there can be no assurances that we will generate future profits or positive cash flows.

Assets and Liabilities

At December 31, 2012 and 2011, we had cash and cash equivalents of \$35,189 and \$118,255, respectively. Our total current assets at December 31, 2012, were \$393,488, compared to \$484,250 at December 31, 2011. Our total current liabilities were \$283,127 at December 31, 2012, compared to \$289,566 at December 31, 2011. Inventory at December 31, 2012, was \$22,739 higher than at December 31, 2011, due to increases in fuel prices, nonfuel wholesale purchase prices and the amounts of inventories required by our additional travel centers and our increased sales levels. Both accounts receivable and accounts payable decreased as a result of reduced fuel sales volumes in December 2012, as compared to December 2011.

Revolving Credit Facility

In October 2011, we entered into an amended and restated loan and security agreement, or our credit facility, with a group of commercial banks. The credit facility amended and restated our

Table of Contents

preexisting credit facility. Under this credit facility, a maximum of \$200,000 may be drawn, repaid and redrawn until maturity in October 2016. The availability of this maximum amount is subject to limits based on qualified collateral. Subject to available collateral and lender participation, the maximum amount may be increased to \$300,000. The credit facility may be used for general business purposes and provides for the issuance of letters of credit. Generally, no principal payments are due until maturity. Borrowings under the credit facility bear interest at a rate based on, at our option, LIBOR or a base rate, plus a premium (which premium is subject to adjustment based upon facility availability, utilization and other matters). The annual interest rate for our credit facility was 4.5% as of December 31, 2012. Pursuant to the credit facility, we pay a monthly unused line fee which is subject to adjustment according to the average daily principal amount of unused commitment under the credit facility. For further information regarding how the interest and fees charged under the credit facility are determined, see Note 11 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part IV, Item 15 of this Annual Report.

The credit facility requires us to maintain certain levels of collateral, limits our ability to incur debt and liens, restricts us from making certain investments and paying dividends and other distributions, requires us to maintain a minimum fixed charge ratio under certain circumstances and contains other customary covenants and conditions. The credit facility provides for the acceleration of principal and interest payments upon an event of default including, but not limited to, failure to pay interest or other amounts due, a change in control of us, as defined in the credit facility, and our default under certain contracts, including the HPT Leases and our business management and shared services agreement with RMR.

Our credit facility is secured by substantially all of our cash, accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and intangible assets and the amount available to us is determined by reference to a borrowing base calculation based on eligible collateral. At December 31, 2012, a total of \$132,288 was available to us for loans and letters of credit under the credit facility. At December 31, 2012, there were no loans outstanding under the credit facility but we had outstanding \$58,229 of letters of credit issued under that facility, securing certain purchases, insurance, fuel tax and other trade obligations.

Investment Activities

Our business of operating high volume travel centers open 24 hours every day requires that we make regular capital investments in our business to maintain our competitiveness. During the year ended December 31, 2012, we made capital expenditures of \$166,802 for improvements to our existing travel center business and of \$21,892 to improve the travel centers and businesses we acquired in 2011 and 2012.

During the year ended December 31, 2012, we purchased ten travel centers and acquired the businesses of four franchisees for a total of \$52,310. We entered agreements to acquire four additional travel centers for a total of \$20,300; two of these acquisitions were completed during January and February 2013 and two acquisitions are expected to close during the first half of 2013. The pending transactions are subject to conditions and, accordingly, may be delayed, their terms may be changed or they may not be completed. We currently intend to continue our efforts to selectively acquire additional properties.

During 2012, we received \$76,754 of proceeds from the sale to HPT of improvements we previously made to travel centers leased from HPT, and as a result our rent increased by \$6,524, pursuant to the terms of our HPT Leases. At December 31, 2012, we had assets of \$16,842 included in our property and equipment balance that we intend to request that HPT purchase for a future increase in rent; however, HPT is not obligated to purchase those assets.

Table of Contents

During the year ended December 31, 2011, we made capital expenditures of \$105,867 for improvements to existing travel centers and of \$12,380 to improve the eight travel centers we acquired in 2011 for an investment of \$37,820. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we made cash investments of \$59,561 in our business, primarily for sustaining capital expenditure projects.

We estimate that during 2013 our sustaining capital investments in our existing business will be approximately \$45,000 to \$55,000, some of which is expected to be of the type of improvements we typically request HPT purchase from us, and that the capital investment for improvements to those travel centers we had acquired during 2011 and 2012 or agreed to acquire as of December 31, 2012, will be approximately \$47,000. We may also make additional investments in our business for expansion or other projects and at substantial costs.

Senior Notes Issuance

On January 15, 2013, we completed the issuance at par of \$110,000 aggregate principal amount of our Senior Notes in an underwritten public offering and received net proceeds of approximately \$105,200 after underwriters discounts and commissions and other offering expenses. On January 15, 2013, we entered into the Indenture and the First Supplemental Indenture to that Indenture, each dated as of January 15, 2013, with U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee. The Senior Notes were issued under the Indenture, as supplemented and amended by the First Supplemental Indenture. The Senior Notes are our senior unsecured obligations. The Senior Notes bear interest at 8.25% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year, beginning on April 15, 2013. The Senior Notes will mature (unless previously redeemed) on January 15, 2028. We may, at our option, at any time on or after January 15, 2016, redeem some or all of the Senior Notes by paying 100% of the principal amount of the Senior Notes to be redeemed plus accrued but unpaid interest, if any, to, but not including, the redemption date. The Indenture does not contain any limit on the amount of indebtedness we may incur. We may issue additional debt from time to time, including additional notes or other debt pursuant to the Indenture.

We expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of the Senior Notes for general corporate purposes, including acquisitions, funding capital improvements to our existing travel center business and other expansion activities.

Off Balance Sheet Arrangements

As of December 31, 2012, we had no off balance sheet arrangements that we believe have had or would be reasonably likely to have a current or future material effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources, other than with respect to the debt owed by PTP, a joint venture entity in which we own a 40% interest. PTP's outstanding loan, with a balance of \$18,076 as of December 31, 2012, is secured by PTP's real property and matures in December 2018. We account for our investment in PTP under the equity method of accounting and, therefore, we have not recorded a liability for this debt. We are not directly liable for this debt, but the carrying value of our investment in this joint venture (\$15,332 at December 31, 2012) would be adversely affected if PTP defaulted on this debt and PTP's property was used to satisfy this debt. Also, in connection with the loan agreement entered by PTP, we and Tejon Development Corporation, the owner of the majority interest in PTP, each agreed to indemnify the lender against liability from environmental matters related to PTP's sites.

Related Party Transactions

Relationships with HPT, RMR and AIC

We have relationships and historical and continuing transactions with our Directors, our executive officers, HPT, RMR, AIC and other companies to which RMR provides management services and others affiliated with them. For example: HPT is our former parent company, our principal landlord

Table of Contents

and our largest shareholder and RMR provides management services to both us and HPT; we, RMR, HPT and five other companies to which RMR provides management services each currently own 12.5% of AIC, an Indiana insurance company, and we and the other shareholders of AIC have property insurance in place providing \$500,000 of coverage pursuant to an insurance program arranged by AIC and with respect to which AIC is a reinsurer of certain coverage amounts; and RMR, a company that employs our President and Chief Executive Officer; our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer; our Executive Vice President and General Counsel; and both of our Managing Directors and which is majority owned by one of our Managing Directors, assists us with various aspects of our business pursuant to a business management agreement and provides building management services related to our headquarters office building pursuant to a property management agreement. For further information about these and other such relationships and related person transactions, please see Note 16 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Part IV, Item 15 of this Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference, and the section captioned "Business Our Leases With HPT" above in Part I, Item 1 of this Annual Report. In addition, for more information about these transactions and relationships and about the risks that may arise as a result of these and other related person transactions and relationships, please see elsewhere in this Annual Report, including "Warning Concerning Forward Looking Statements" and Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors." Copies of certain of our agreements with these related parties, including our leases and related amendments with HPT, our business management agreement and property management agreement with RMR and our shareholders agreement with AIC and its shareholders, are publicly available as exhibits to our public filings with the SEC and accessible at the SEC's website at www.sec.gov.

We believe that our agreements with HPT, RMR and AIC are on commercially reasonable terms. We also believe that our relationships with HPT, RMR and AIC and their affiliated and related persons and entities benefit us and, in fact, provide us with competitive advantages in operating and growing our business.

Relationship with PTP

We own a 40% interest in PTP and operate the two travel centers PTP owns. Additional information regarding our relationship and transactions with PTP can be found in Note 16 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in Item 15 of this Annual Report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Summary of Contractual Obligations and Commitments

At December 31, 2012, our primary outstanding trade commitments were \$58,229 of letters of credit. As of December 31, 2012, we had entered agreements to purchase four travel centers for an aggregate of \$20,300; two of these acquisitions were completed during January and February 2013 and two acquisitions are expected to close during the first half of 2013. The pending transactions are subject to conditions and, accordingly, may be delayed, their terms may be changed or they may not be

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

completed. The following table summarizes our obligations to make future payments under various agreements as of December 31, 2012:

| | Payments due by period | | | | |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Total | Less than one year | 1 - 3 years | 3 - 5 years | More than 5 years |
| (In Thousands) | | | | | |
| Leases with HPT ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 2,421,493 | \$ 220,518 | \$ 439,161 | \$ 433,447 | \$ 1,328,367 |
| Other operating leases | 18,024 | 4,597 | 4,797 | 2,608 | 6,022 |
| Letters of credit ⁽²⁾ | 58,229 | | 58,229 | | |
| Purchase obligations ⁽³⁾ | 20,300 | 20,300 | | | |
| Other long term liabilities ⁽⁴⁾ | 31,377 | 14,806 | 10,473 | 3,597 | 2,501 |
| Total contractual obligations | \$ 2,549,423 | \$ 260,221 | \$ 512,660 | \$ 439,652 | \$ 1,336,890 |

- (1) The amounts shown for lease payments to HPT include payments due to HPT both for the sites we account for as operating leases and for the sites we account for as a financing under a sale/leaseback financing obligation and also include the payments of the deferred rent obligation of \$107,085 in December 2022 and \$42,915 in June 2024, as well as the amounts payable to HPT at the end of the lease terms in connection with our asset retirement obligations with respect to underground storage tanks. Interest is not payable on the deferred rent obligation balance unless we default on certain covenants or certain events occur, such as a change of control of us.
- (2) At December 31, 2012, there were \$58,229 of letters of credit issued under our credit facility. In the absence of a renewal or replacement of that credit facility, following the maturity of our credit facility in October 2016, we will be obligated to make cash deposits, or possibly provide some other form of collateral, to secure these letters of credit under the credit facility.
- (3) At December 31, 2012, we had agreed to purchase four travel centers during the first quarter of 2013 for an aggregate amount of \$20,300.
- (4) The other long term liabilities included in the table above include accrued liabilities related to our partial self insurance programs, including for general liability, workers' compensation, motor vehicle and group health benefits claims.

In January 2013, we issued \$110,000 aggregate principal amount of our Senior Notes. The contractual payments related to the Senior Notes will be \$8,702 in 2013, \$9,075 each year from 2014 to 2027 and \$110,373 in 2028. The Senior Notes are redeemable at any time and from time to time at our option in whole or in part on or after January 15, 2016. The redemption price will equal 100% of the principal amount of the Senior Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but not including, the redemption date.

Inflation and Deflation

Inflation, or a general increase in prices, will likely have more negative than positive impacts on our business. Rising prices may allow us to increase revenues, but also will likely increase our operating costs. Also, rising prices for fuel and other products we sell increase our working capital requirements and in the past have caused some of our customers to reduce their purchases of our goods and services. Because significant components of our expenses are fixed, we may not be able to realize expense reductions which match declines in general price levels, or deflation.

Seasonality

Assuming little variation in fuel prices; our revenues are usually lowest in the first quarter of the year when movement of freight by professional truck drivers and motorist travel are typically at their

Table of Contents

lowest levels of the year; and our revenues in the fourth quarter of a year are often somewhat lower than those of the second and third quarters because, although the beginning of the fourth quarter is often positively impacted by increased movement of freight in preparation for various national holidays, that positive impact is often more than offset by a reduction in freight movement caused by vacation time associated with those holidays taken by professional truck drivers toward the end of the year. While our revenues are modestly seasonal, the quarterly variations in our operating results may reflect greater seasonal differences because our rent and certain other costs do not vary seasonally.

Environmental and Climate Change Matters

At December 31, 2012, we had an accrued liability of \$10,355 for environmental matters as well as a receivable of \$2,718 for expected recoveries of certain of these estimated future expenditures, resulting in an estimated net amount of \$7,637 that we expect to need to fund from future cash flows. We do not have a reserve for unknown current or potential future environmental matters. Accrued liabilities related to environmental matters are recorded on an undiscounted basis because of the uncertainty associated with the timing of the related future payments. We cannot precisely know the ultimate costs we will incur in connection with currently known or future potential environmental related violations, corrective actions, investigation and remediation; however, based on our current knowledge we do not expect that our net costs for such matters to be incurred at our travel centers, individually or in the aggregate, would be material to our financial condition or results of operations.

We have insurance of up to \$10,000 for certain environmental liabilities at certain of our travel centers that were known at the time the policies were issued, and up to \$40,000 for certain unknown environmental liabilities, subject, in each case, to certain limitations and deductibles. However, we can provide no assurance that we will be able to maintain similar environmental insurance coverage in the future on acceptable terms.

While the costs of our environmental compliance in the past have not had a material adverse impact on us, it is impossible to predict the ultimate effect changing circumstances and changing environmental laws may have on us in the future. We cannot be certain that contamination presently unknown to us does not exist at our sites, or that material liability will not be imposed on us in the future. If we discover additional environmental problems, or if government agencies impose additional environmental requirements, increased environmental compliance or remediation expenditures may be required, which could have a material adverse effect on us. In addition, legislation and regulation regarding climate change, including greenhouse gas emissions, and other environmental matters may be adopted or administered and enforced differently in the future, which could require us to expend significant amounts. For instance, federal and state governmental requirements addressing emissions from trucks and other motor vehicles, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's gasoline and diesel sulfur control requirements that limit the concentration of sulfur in motor vehicle gasoline and diesel fuel, could negatively impact our business. Further, legislation and regulations that limit carbon emissions may cause our energy costs at our travel centers to increase.

There have recently been severe weather activities in different parts of the country that some observers believe evidence global climate change, including the recent Hurricane Sandy that impacted portions of the eastern United States in October 2012. Such severe weather that may result from climate change may have an adverse affect on individual properties we own, lease or operate. We mitigate these risks by owning, leasing and operating a diversified portfolio of properties and by procuring insurance coverage we believe adequate to protect us from material damages and losses from such activities. However, there can be no assurance that our mitigation efforts will be sufficient or that storms that may occur due to future climate change or otherwise could not have a material adverse affect on our business.

For further information about these and other environmental and climate change matters, see the disclosure under the heading "Environmental Matters" in Note 17 to the Notes to Consolidated

Table of Contents

Financial Statements included in Item 15 of this Annual Report, which disclosure is incorporated herein by reference. In addition, for more information about these environmental and climate change matters and about the risks which may arise as a result of these environmental and climate change matters, see elsewhere in this Annual Report, including "Warning Concerning Forward Looking Statements", "Environmental and Climate Change Matters" in Item 1 and Item 1A, "Risk Factors".

Item 7A. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk (dollars in thousands)*

We have a line of credit that is secured by substantially all of our cash, accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and intangible assets. We borrow under this credit facility in U.S. dollars and those borrowings require us to pay interest at floating interest rates, which are based on LIBOR or a base rate plus a premium. Accordingly, we are vulnerable to changes in U.S. dollar based short term interest rates. There have been recent governmental inquiries regarding the setting of LIBOR, which may result in changes to that process that may have the effect of increasing LIBOR. Increases in LIBOR would increase the amount of interest we would have to pay under our credit facility. A change in interest rates would not affect the value of any outstanding floating rate debt but could affect our operating results. For example, if the \$200,000 stated maximum amount was drawn under our credit facility and interest rates decreased or increased by 100 basis points per annum, our interest expense would decrease or increase by \$2,000 per year, or \$0.07 per share, based on the number of outstanding common shares as of December 31, 2012. If interest rates were to change gradually over time, the impact would occur over time. As of December 31, 2012, no borrowings were outstanding under this credit facility. In January 2013 we issued \$110,000 aggregate principal amount of our Senior Notes. The Senior Notes have a fixed interest rate; therefore changes in market interest rates will not affect our operating results but they could affect the value of this fixed rate debt. For example, if interest rates decreased or increased by 100 basis points per annum, the fair value of the Senior Notes would increase or decrease by \$10,008 or \$8,875, respectively. Our exposure to fluctuations in interest rates may increase in the future if we incur additional debt.

We are exposed to risks arising from market price changes for fuel. These risks have historically resulted from changes in supply and demand for fuel and from market speculation about future supply and demand for fuel. Some supply changes may arise from local conditions, such as a malfunction in a particular pipeline or at a particular terminal. However, in the recent past most of the supply risks have arisen from national or international conditions, such as weather related shutdowns of oil drilling or refining capacities, political instability in oil producing regions of the world or terrorism. Risks may also arise from changes in the demand for and the price of fuel. Because petroleum products are traded in commodity markets, material changes in demand for and the price of fuel worldwide and financial speculation in these commodities markets may have a material effect upon the prices we have to pay for fuel and may also impact our customers' demand for fuel and other products. Almost all of these risks are beyond our control. Nevertheless, we attempt to mitigate our exposure to fuel commodity price market risks in three ways. First, whenever possible, we attempt to maintain supply contracts for diesel fuel with several different suppliers for each of our travel centers; if one supplier has a local problem we may be able to obtain fuel supplies from other suppliers. Second, we maintain modest fuel inventories, generally less than three days of fuel sales. Modest inventories may mitigate the risk that we are required by competitive or contract conditions to sell fuel for less than its cost in the event of rapid price changes; however, the low fuel inventory could exacerbate our fuel supply risks. Third, we sell a majority of our diesel fuel at prices determined by reference to a benchmark which is reflective of the market costs for fuel; by selling on such terms we may be able to maintain our margin per gallon despite changes in the price we pay for fuel. Based on our fuel inventory volume as of and our fuel sales volume for the year ended December 31, 2012, each one cent change in the price of fuel would change our inventory value by \$170 and our fuel sales by \$20,400.

Table of Contents

Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data

The information required by this item is included in Item 15 of this Annual Report.

Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements With Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

None.

Item 9A. Controls and Procedures

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As of the end of the period covered by this report, our management carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-15 and Rule 15d-15. Based upon that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at December 31, 2012.

Management Report on Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We are responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Internal control systems are intended to provide reasonable assurance to our management and board of directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Our management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012. In making this assessment, it used the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in *Internal Control Integrated Framework*. Based on this assessment, our management believes that, as of December 31, 2012, our internal control over financial reporting is effective.

The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which appears in Item 15 of this Annual Report.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Except as described in this item 9A, there have been no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 31, 2012, that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Remediation of Material Weakness in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We designed and implemented improved internal controls to remediate the material weakness that existed as of December 31, 2011, with respect to our controls over impairment indicators and charges. We have adopted new procedures for performing our annual impairment analysis and for performing our identification of potential indicators of impairment during the year, including more frequent quantitative and qualitative assessments throughout the year and site by site analysis of the financial results of our travel centers after taking into account the allocation of rent expense incurred under the HPT Leases. We also have designed new processes for the supervisory review of the assumptions, calculations and results of such analyses. During the fourth quarter of 2012 we provided additional formal training regarding generally accepted accounting principles with respect to impairment analysis and fair value calculations to our accounting staff and management personnel. These changes and the remediation of the identified weakness in our internal control over impairment indicators and charges were completed during 2012.

Item 9B. Other Information

None.

Table of Contents**PART III****Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

We have a code of business conduct and ethics that applies to all our representatives, including our officers and Directors. Our code of business conduct and ethics is posted on our website, www.tatravelcenters.com. A printed copy of our code of business conduct and ethics is also available free of charge to any person who requests a copy by writing to our Secretary, TravelCenters of America LLC, Two Newton Place, 255 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02458. We intend to disclose any amendments to or waivers of our code of business conduct and ethics applicable to our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer and controller (or any person performing similar functions) on our website.

The remainder of the information required by Item 10 is incorporated by reference to our definitive proxy statement.

Item 11. Executive Compensation

The information required by Item 11 is incorporated by reference to our definitive proxy statement.

Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters

Equity Compensation Plan Information. We may grant options and common shares from time to time to our officers, Directors, employees and other individuals who render services to us, subject to vesting requirements, under our Amended and Restated TravelCenters of America 2007 Equity Compensation Plan, or the Plan. An aggregate of 6,000,000 of our common shares have been reserved for issuance under the Plan. In 2012 we issued 767,925 common shares to our Directors, officers, employees and others who provide services to us. The terms of grants made under the Plan are determined by our Board of Directors or the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors at the time of the grant. The following table is as of December 31, 2012.

| Plan Category | Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights (a) | Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights (b) | Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans (excluding securities reflected in column (a)) (c) |
|--|--|---|---|
| Equity compensation plans approved by security holders | None | None | 2,147,200 |
| Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders | None | None | None |
| Total | None | None | 2,147,200 |

The remainder of the information required by Item 12 is incorporated by reference to our definitive proxy statement.

Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence

The information required by Item 13 is incorporated by reference to our definitive proxy statement.

Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services

The information required by Item 14 is incorporated by reference to our definitive proxy statement.

Table of Contents

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

- a)
 Index to Financial Statements

The following consolidated financial statements of TravelCenters of America LLC are included on the pages indicated:

| | Page |
|---|-------------|
| TravelCenters of America LLC Audited Financial Statements | |
| <u>Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u> | <u>F-1</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2012 and 2011</u> | <u>F-3</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010</u> | <u>F-4</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010</u> | <u>F-5</u> |
| <u>Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010</u> | <u>F-6</u> |
| <u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</u> | <u>F-7</u> |

All other schedules for which provision is made in the applicable accounting regulations of the SEC are not required under the related instructions or are not applicable or the required information is shown in the consolidated financial statements or notes to the consolidated financial statements and, therefore, have been omitted.

- (b)
- Exhibits*
- 2.1 Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of September 15, 2006, by and among TravelCenters of America, Inc., Hospitality Properties Trust, HPT TA Merger Sub Inc. and Oak Hill Capital Partners, L.P. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of our Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on December 12, 2006, File No. 333-139272)
 - 2.2 Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of January 30, 2007, by and among TravelCenters of America, Inc., Hospitality Properties Trust, HPT TA Merger Sub Inc. and Oak Hill Capital Partners, L.P. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.2 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 2, 2007)
 - 2.3 Purchase Agreement, dated as of May 30, 2007, by and among TravelCenters of America LLC, Petro Stopping Centers, L.P., Petro Stopping Centers Holdings, L.P. and the partners of Petro Stopping Centers, L.P. and of Petro Stopping Centers Holdings, L.P. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 4, 2007)
 - 3.1 Certificate of Formation of TravelCenters of America LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of our Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on December 12, 2006, File No. 333-139272)
 - 3.2 Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of TravelCenters of America LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 27, 2013)
 - 3.3 Amended and Restated Bylaws of TravelCenters of America LLC, as amended and restated on February 21, 2013 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 27, 2013)

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

- 4.1 Form of share certificate (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed on February 24, 2010)
- 4.2 Indenture by and between TravelCenters of America LLC and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, dated as of January 15, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 15, 2013)
- 4.3 First Supplemental Indenture by and between TravelCenters of America LLC and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee, dated as of January 15, 2013 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed January 15, 2013)
- 4.4 Form of 8.25% Senior Notes due 2028 (included in Exhibit 4.3 above)
- 10.1 Transaction Agreement, dated as of January 29, 2007, by and among Hospitality Properties Trust, HPT TA Properties Trust, HPT TA Properties LLC, TravelCenters of America LLC and Reit Management & Research LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 filed on March 20, 2007)
- 10.2 Lease Agreement, dated as of January 31, 2007, by and among HPT TA Properties Trust and HPT TA Properties LLC, as Landlord, and TA Leasing LLC, as Tenant (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 filed on March 20, 2007)
- 10.3 Guaranty Agreement, dated as of January 31, 2007, made by TravelCenters of America LLC, TravelCenters of America Holding Company LLC and TA Operating LLC, as Guarantors, for the benefit of HPT TA Properties Trust and HPT TA Properties LLC, as Landlord, under the Lease Agreement, dated as of January 31, 2007, by and among such Landlord and TA Leasing LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006 filed on March 20, 2007)
- 10.4 Lease Agreement, dated as of May 30, 2007, by and among HPT PSC Properties Trust and HPT PSC Properties LLC, as Landlord, and TA Operating LLC (as successor to Petro Stopping Centers, L.P.), as Tenant (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 4, 2007)
- 10.5 Guaranty Agreement, dated as of May 30, 2007, made by TravelCenters of America LLC, as Guarantor, for the benefit of HPT PSC Properties Trust and HPT PSC Properties LLC, as Landlord, under the Lease Agreement, dated as of May 30, 2007, by and among such Landlord and TA Operating LLC (as successor to Petro Stopping Centers, L.P.) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on June 4, 2007)
- 10.6 Freightliner Express Operating Agreement, dated as of July 21, 1999, by and among Freightliner Corporation, TA Operating Corporation, and TA Franchise Systems, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of our Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on December 12, 2006, File No. 333-139272)
- 10.7 Amendment No. 1 to Operating Agreement, dated as of November 9, 2000, by and among Freightliner LLC, TA Operating Corporation, and TA Franchise Systems Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of our Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on December 12, 2006, File No. 333-139272)
- 10.8 Amendment No. 2 to Operating Agreement, dated as of April 15, 2003, by and among Freightliner LLC, TA Operating Corporation, and TA Franchise Systems, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of our Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on December 12, 2006, File No. 333-139272)

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

- 10.9 Amendment No. 3 to Operating Agreement, dated as of July 26, 2006 by and among Freightliner LLC, TA Operating Corporation, and TA Franchise Systems, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.8 of our Registration Statement on Form S-1 filed on December 12, 2006, File No. 333-139272)
- 10.10 Amendment No. 4 to Operating Agreement, dated as of August 12, 2008, by and between Daimler Trucks North America LLC, F/K/A Freightliner Corporation and Freightliner LLC, TA Operating LLC (successor by conversion to TA Operating Corp.), TA Franchise Systems LLC (successor by conversion to TA Franchise Systems, Inc.) and Petro Stopping Centers, L.P. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on August 15, 2008)
- 10.11* Form of Restricted Share Agreement under the 2007 Equity Compensation Plan of TravelCenters of America LLC (for restricted share grants under the plan prior to October 24, 2008) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K dated November 30, 2007)
- 10.12* Composite copy of the Amended and Restated TravelCenters of America LLC 2007 Equity Compensation Plan, as amended as of May 12, 2011 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 16, 2011)
- 10.13* Form of Restricted Share Agreement under the Amended and Restated TravelCenters of America LLC 2007 Equity Compensation Plan (for restricted shares granted under the plan on and after October 24, 2008) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009, filed on February 24, 2010)
- 10.14 Deferral Agreement, dated as of August 11, 2008, among Hospitality Properties Trust, HPT TA Properties Trust, HPT TA Properties LLC, HPT PSC Properties Trust, HPT PSC Properties LLC, TravelCenters of America LLC, TA Leasing LLC and Petro Stopping Centers, L.P. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarterly period ended June 30, 2008, filed on August 11, 2008)
- 10.15 Registration Rights Agreement, dated August 11, 2008, between TravelCenters of America LLC and Hospitality Properties Trust (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarterly period ended June 30, 2008, filed on August 11, 2008)
- 10.16 First Amendment to Lease Agreement, dated as of March 17, 2008, by and among HPT PSC Properties Trust, HPT PSC Properties LLC and TA Operating LLC (as successor to Petro Stopping Centers, L.P.) (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.5 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarterly period ended September 30, 2008, filed on November 10, 2008)
- 10.17 First Amendment to Lease Agreement, dated as of May 12, 2008, by and among HPT TA Properties Trust, HPT TA Properties LLC and TA Leasing LLC (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on May 14, 2008)
- 10.18 Amendment Agreement, dated as of January 31, 2011, among Hospitality Properties Trust, HPT TA Properties Trust, HPT TA Properties LLC, HPT PSC Properties Trust, HPT PSC Properties LLC, TravelCenters of America LLC, TA Leasing LLC and TA Operating LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on February 1, 2011)

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

Table of Contents

- 10.19 Amended and Restated Shareholders Agreement, dated May 21, 2012, by and among Affiliates Insurance Company, Five Star Quality Care, Inc., Hospitality Properties Trust, Commonwealth REIT, Senior Housing Properties Trust, TravelCenters of America LLC, Reit Management & Research LLC, Government Properties Income Trust and Select Income REIT (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.2 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2012, filed on August 7, 2012)
- 10.20 Current Compensation Plan for Directors (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 11, 2012)
- 10.21 Amended and Restated Business Management and Shared Services Agreement, dated as of December 4, 2012, by and between TravelCenters of America LLC and Reit Management & Research LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on December 6, 2012)
- 10.22 Form of Indemnification Agreement (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, filed on March 16, 2012)
- 10.23 Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of October 25, 2011, by and among TravelCenters of America LLC, TA Leasing LLC, TA Operating LLC, as borrowers, each of the Guarantors named therein, Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, as Agent, and the entities from time to time parties thereto as Lenders (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 28, 2011)
- 12.1 Statement of Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges (filed herewith)
- 21.1 Subsidiaries of TravelCenters of America LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 21.1 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on May 10, 2010)
- 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP (filed herewith)
- 31.1 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chief Executive Officer (filed herewith)
- 31.2 Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Chief Financial Officer (filed herewith)
- 32.1 Section 1350 Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer (furnished herewith)
- 99.1 Property Management Agreement, dated as of July 21, 2011, by and between Reit Management & Research LLC and TA Operating LLC (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on November 7, 2011)
- 99.2 Amended and Restated Reimbursement Agreement, dated May 1, 2012, by and among Reit Management & Research LLC, TravelCenters of America LLC and Five Star Quality Care, Inc. (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed on August 7, 2012)
- 101.1 The following materials from TravelCenters of America LLC's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, formatted in XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) the Consolidated Balance Sheets, (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss), (iii) the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows, and (iv) related notes to these financial statements, tagged as blocks of text. (furnished herewith.)

*

Management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of
TravelCenters of America LLC

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of TravelCenters of America LLC as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of TravelCenters of America LLC at December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), TravelCenters of America LLC's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated March 18, 2013, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
March 18, 2013

Table of Contents

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The Board of Directors and Shareholders of
TravelCenters of America LLC

We have audited TravelCenters of America LLC's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on criteria established in Internal Control Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (the COSO criteria). TravelCenters of America LLC's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting, and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying Management's Report on Assessment of Internal Control over Financial Reporting in Item 9A. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed 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. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, TravelCenters of America LLC maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated balance sheets of TravelCenters of America LLC as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), shareholders' equity and cash flows for the three years in the period ended December 31, 2012, and our report dated March 18, 2013, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Boston, Massachusetts
March 18, 2013

Table of Contents**TravelCenters of America LLC****Consolidated Balance Sheets****(in thousands, except share data)**

| | December 31, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 35,189 | \$ 118,255 |
| Accounts receivable (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,516 and \$1,679 as of December 31, 2012, and December 31, 2011, respectively) | 106,273 | 130,672 |
| Inventories | 191,006 | 168,267 |
| Other current assets | 61,020 | 67,056 |
| Total current assets | 393,488 | 484,250 |
| Property and equipment, net | 576,512 | 479,943 |
| Goodwill and intangible assets, net | 20,041 | 21,957 |
| Other noncurrent assets | 28,240 | 30,381 |
| Total assets | \$ 1,018,281 | \$ 1,016,531 |
| Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 143,605 | \$ 149,051 |
| Current HPT Leases liabilities | 28,354 | 26,891 |
| Other current liabilities | 111,168 | 113,624 |
| Total current liabilities | 283,127 | 289,566 |
| Noncurrent HPT Leases liabilities | 351,135 | 373,451 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 30,585 | 34,913 |
| Total liabilities | 664,847 | 697,930 |
| Commitments and contingencies (Note 17) | | |
| Shareholders' equity: | | |
| Common shares, no par value, 31,683,666 shares authorized at December 31, 2012 and 2011, and 29,536,466 and 28,775,671 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively | 605,106 | 602,636 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income | 1,299 | 1,134 |
| Accumulated deficit | (252,971) | (285,169) |
| Total shareholders' equity | 353,434 | 318,601 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$ 1,018,281 | \$ 1,016,531 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income (Loss)

(in thousands, except per share data)

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Revenues: | | | |
| Fuel | \$ 6,636,297 | \$ 6,603,329 | \$ 4,790,659 |
| Nonfuel | 1,344,755 | 1,271,085 | 1,158,343 |
| Rent and royalties from franchisees | 14,672 | 14,443 | 13,479 |
| Total revenues | 7,995,724 | 7,888,857 | 5,962,481 |
| Cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation): | | | |
| Fuel | 6,310,250 | 6,301,947 | 4,530,943 |
| Nonfuel | 599,474 | 548,092 | 488,687 |
| Total cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation) | 6,909,724 | 6,850,039 | 5,019,630 |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Site level operating | 698,522 | 677,958 | 625,979 |
| Selling, general & administrative | 95,547 | 89,196 | 80,562 |
| Real estate rent | 198,927 | 191,798 | 234,228 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 51,534 | 47,466 | 44,116 |
| Total operating expenses | 1,044,530 | 1,006,418 | 984,885 |
| Income (loss) from operations | 41,470 | 32,400 | (42,034) |
| Income from equity investees | 1,877 | 1,169 | 757 |
| Acquisition costs | (785) | (446) | |
| Interest income | 1,485 | 835 | 1,127 |
| Interest expense | (10,358) | (9,005) | (25,653) |
| Income (loss) before income taxes | 33,689 | 24,953 | (65,803) |
| Provision for income taxes | 1,491 | 1,379 | 887 |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 32,198 | \$ 23,574 | \$ (66,690) |
| Other comprehensive income (loss), net of tax: | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment, net of taxes of \$55, \$(55) and \$132, respectively | 143 | (136) | 378 |
| Equity interest in investee's unrealized gain (loss) on investments | 22 | 77 | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) | 165 | (59) | 378 |
| Comprehensive income (loss) | \$ 32,363 | \$ 23,515 | \$ (66,312) |
| Net income (loss) per common share: | | | |
| Basic and diluted | \$ 1.12 | \$ 0.98 | \$ (3.84) |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(in thousands)

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ 32,198 | \$ 23,574 | \$ (66,690) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities: | | | |
| Noncash rent expense | (9,628) | (4,946) | 60,459 |
| Share based compensation expense | 2,470 | 2,435 | 1,745 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 51,534 | 47,466 | 44,116 |
| Income from equity investees | (1,877) | (1,169) | (757) |
| Distribution from equity investee | 4,800 | | 960 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 352 | 403 | 285 |
| Deferred income tax provision | 641 | 429 | 207 |
| Provision for (recovery of) doubtful accounts | 349 | 99 | (183) |
| Cash received for tenant improvements | | | 7,015 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of effects of business acquisitions: | | | |
| Accounts receivable | 24,200 | (48,444) | (10,250) |
| Inventories | (17,045) | (27,048) | (10,589) |
| Other assets | 6,529 | (6,916) | (7,551) |
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | (13,131) | 43,847 | 11,247 |
| Other, net | 1,680 | 411 | 879 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 83,072 | 30,141 | 30,893 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | | |
| Proceeds from sales of improvements to HPT | 68,156 | 69,122 | |
| Acquisitions of businesses, net of cash acquired | (52,070) | (31,216) | |
| Capital expenditures | (188,694) | (124,851) | (59,485) |
| Proceeds from asset sales | 134 | 147 | 17 |
| Investment in equity investee | | | (76) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (172,474) | (86,798) | (59,544) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | |
| Proceeds from issuance of common shares, net | | 53,135 | |
| Proceeds from borrowings under credit facility | | 1,000 | |
| Repayment of borrowings under credit facility | | (1,000) | |
| Payment of deferred financing fees | (187) | (1,542) | |
| Proceeds from sale/leaseback transactions | 8,598 | | |
| Sale/leaseback financing obligation payments | (2,089) | (2,046) | (1,628) |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities | 6,322 | 49,547 | (1,628) |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash | 14 | (31) | 43 |
| Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents | (83,066) | (7,141) | (30,236) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year | 118,255 | 125,396 | 155,632 |

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|--------|----|---------|----|---------|
| Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year | \$ | 35,189 | \$ | 118,255 | \$ | 125,396 |
|--|----|--------|----|---------|----|---------|

Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|
| Interest paid (including rent classified as interest) | \$ | 10,227 | \$ | 10,462 | \$ | 23,826 |
| Income taxes paid (net of refunds) | | 1,127 | | 658 | | 859 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

F-5

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity

(in thousands, except share data)

| | Number of Common Shares | Common Shares | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) | Accumulated Deficit | Total Shareholders' Equity |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| December 31, 2009 | 17,269,646 | \$ 545,321 | \$ 815 | \$ (242,053) | \$ 304,083 |
| Grants under share award plan and share based compensation, net of forfeitures | 746,550 | 1,745 | | | 1,745 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax | | | 378 | | 378 |
| Net loss | | | | (66,690) | (66,690) |
| December 31, 2010 | 18,016,196 | 547,066 | 1,193 | (308,743) | 239,516 |
| Grants under share award plan and share based compensation, net of forfeitures | 759,475 | 2,435 | | | 2,435 |
| Shares issued in public offering | 10,000,000 | 53,135 | | | 53,135 |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax | | | (59) | | (59) |
| Net income | | | | 23,574 | 23,574 |
| December 31, 2011 | 28,775,671 | 602,636 | 1,134 | (285,169) | 318,601 |
| Grants under share award plan and share based compensation, net of forfeitures | 760,795 | 2,470 | | | 2,470 |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax | | | 165 | | 165 |
| Net income | | | | 32,198 | 32,198 |
| December 31, 2012 | 29,536,466 | \$ 605,106 | \$ 1,299 | \$ (252,971) | \$ 353,434 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

1. Basis of Presentation, Business Description and Organization

TravelCenters of America LLC, which we refer to as the Company or we, us and our, operates and franchises travel centers under the "TravelCenters of America," "TA" or related brand names, or the TA brand, and the "Petro Stopping Centers" and "Petro" brand names, or the Petro brand, primarily along the U.S. interstate highway system. Our customers include long haul trucking fleets and their drivers, independent truck drivers and motorists.

At December 31, 2012, our geographically diverse business included 243 travel centers in 41 U.S. states and in Canada, including 171 travel centers operating under the TA brand, and 72 travel centers operating under the Petro brand. As of December 31, 2012, we operated 208 of these travel centers, which we refer to as Company operated sites, and our franchisees operated 35 of these travel centers. Of our 243 travel centers at December 31, 2012, we owned 25, we leased or managed 189 from or for others, including 185 that we leased from HPT, and franchisees owned or leased from others 29. We sublease to franchisees six of the travel centers we lease from HPT.

Our travel centers typically include over 25 acres of land and offer customers diesel fuel and gasoline as well as nonfuel products and services such as truck repair and maintenance services, full service restaurants, quick service restaurants, travel and convenience stores and other driver amenities. We also collect rents, royalties and other fees from our franchisees.

We were formed as a Delaware limited liability company on October 10, 2006, by Hospitality Properties Trust, or HPT. We were a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of HPT, and we conducted no business activities until January 31, 2007. On January 31, 2007, HPT acquired TravelCenters of America, Inc., our predecessor, through a merger of one of its subsidiaries with TravelCenters of America, Inc. HPT then restructured the business of our predecessor and distributed our then outstanding shares to its shareholders in a spin off transaction. The principal effects of the restructuring were that (i) our predecessor became our 100% owned subsidiary, (ii) subsidiaries of HPT became owners of the real estate at substantially all of the travel centers and certain other assets previously owned by our predecessor as of January 31, 2007, (iii) we entered a lease for that real estate and those other assets, which we refer to as the TA Lease, and (iv) all of the outstanding indebtedness of our predecessor was repaid in full. Herein we refer to this series of transactions as the HPT Transaction. We retained the balance of the assets previously owned by our predecessor and continue their operation.

On May 30, 2007, we acquired Petro Stopping Centers, L.P., or Petro, from Petro Stopping Centers Holdings, L.P., or Petro Holdings. Also on May 30, 2007, HPT acquired Petro Holdings, which owned the real estate of 40 Petro travel centers. Simultaneously with HPT's acquisition of this real estate, we leased these 40 travel centers from HPT. We refer to this lease as the Petro Lease and we refer to the TA Lease and the Petro Lease collectively as the HPT Leases. Herein we refer to our acquisition of Petro as the Petro Acquisition.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Principles of Consolidation. Our consolidated financial statements include the accounts of TravelCenters of America LLC and its wholly owned subsidiaries (collectively, we, us or the Company) after eliminating intercompany transactions, profits and balances. We use the equity method of accounting for investments in entities when we have the ability to significantly influence, but not

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

control, the investee's operating and financial policies, typically when we own 20% to 50% of the investee's voting stock. See Note 15 for more information about our equity investments.

Use of Estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Segment Reporting. We manage our business on the basis of one operating segment and, therefore, have one reportable segment. Our travel centers sell similar products and services, use similar processes to sell those products and services, and sell their products and services to similar groups of customers. We make specific disclosures concerning fuel and nonfuel products and services because it facilitates our discussion of trends and operational initiatives within our business and industry. We have a single travel center located in a foreign country, Canada, and, accordingly, the revenues and assets related to our operations in Canada are considered to be not material.

Revenue Recognition. We recognize sales revenues and related costs at the time of delivery of motor fuel to customers at either the terminal or the customer's facility for wholesale fuel sales and at the time of final sale to consumers at our company operated travel centers for retail fuel and nonfuel sales. We record the estimated cost to us of the redemption by customers of our loyalty program points as a discount against gross sales in determining net sales presented in our consolidated statement of operations and comprehensive income (loss).

For those travel centers that we sublease to a franchisee, we recognize rent revenue based on the amount of rent payment due for each period. These leases specify rent increases each year based on inflation rates for the respective periods or capital improvements we make at the travel center. Because the rent increases related to these factors are contingent upon future events, we recognize the related rent revenue when such events have occurred.

We collect and recognize franchise royalty revenues monthly as earned. We determine royalty revenues as a percentage of the franchisees' revenues. We recognize initial franchise fee revenues when the franchisee opens for business under our brand name, which is when we have fulfilled all of our initial obligations under the related agreements.

Motor Fuel and Sales Taxes. We collect the cost of certain motor fuel and sales taxes from consumers and remit those amounts to the supplier or the appropriate governmental agency. We present these collections and remittances net in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss).

Earnings Per Share. We calculate basic earnings per common share by dividing net income or loss available to common shareholders (and, if applicable, income from continuing operations, cumulative effect of a change in accounting, extraordinary items and discontinued operations) by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the year. The net income or loss attributable to participating securities is deducted from our total net income or loss to determine the net income or loss attributable to common shareholders. We calculate diluted earnings per common share by adjusting

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

weighted average outstanding shares, assuming conversion of all potentially dilutive share securities, using the treasury stock method; but we had no dilutive share securities outstanding as of December 31, 2012, nor during the three year period then ended. Unvested shares issued under our share award plan are deemed participating securities because they participate equally in earnings or losses with all of our other common shares.

Cash and Cash Equivalents. We consider all liquid investments with an initial maturity of three months or less at date of purchase to be cash equivalents. The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents is equal to its fair value.

Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Doubtful Accounts. We record trade accounts receivable at the invoiced amount and those amounts do not bear interest. The recorded allowance for doubtful accounts is our best estimate of the amount of probable losses in our existing accounts receivable. We base the allowance on customer risk assessment and historical write off experience. We individually review for collectability past due balances over specific amounts. We review all other balances for collectability on a pooled basis by the type of receivable. We charge off account balances against the allowance when we believe it is probable the receivable will not be recovered.

Inventories. We state our inventories at the lower of cost or market value. We determine cost principally on the weighted average cost method.

Other current assets. Other current assets primarily consisted of prepaid expenses, the current portion of expected future recoveries of environmental expenditures, and supplier deposits. The most significant item included in other current assets is supplier deposits, which amounted to \$39,487 and \$46,987 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Property and Equipment. We recorded property and equipment that we acquired as a result of the HPT Transaction, Petro Acquisition or any subsequent business combination based on their fair market values as of the date of the respective transaction. We record all other property and equipment at cost. We depreciate our property and equipment on a straight line basis generally over the following estimated useful lives of the assets:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Buildings and site improvements | 15 - 40 years |
| Machinery and equipment | 3 - 15 years |
| Furniture and fixtures | 5 - 10 years |

We depreciate leasehold improvements over the shorter of the lives shown above or the remaining term of the underlying lease. Although the assets related to the qualifying tenant improvements funded by HPT under the tenant improvements allowance are legally owned by HPT, they remained on our balance sheet after the funding by HPT and are amortized over the estimated useful lives of the assets or the remaining term of the lease, whichever is shorter, as depreciation and amortization expense. We account for these leasehold improvements funded through a rental allowance as lease incentives. Amortization expense related to assets recorded in connection with the sale/leaseback financing obligation is included in depreciation and amortization expense over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

We charge repair and maintenance costs to expense as incurred, while we capitalize renewals and betterments. We remove from the accounts the cost and related accumulated depreciation of property and equipment sold, replaced or otherwise disposed. We recognize any resulting gains or losses in depreciation and amortization in the accompanying consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss).

Goodwill and Intangible Assets. We initially recognize our acquired intangible assets, other than goodwill, based on their fair values in accordance with the Financial Accounting Standards Board, or FASB's, guidance regarding business combinations. This guidance requires an allocation of purchase price to all assets and liabilities acquired, including those intangible assets that arise from contractual or other legal rights or are otherwise capable of being separated or divided from the acquired entity (but excluding goodwill), based on the fair values of the acquired assets and liabilities. Any excess of acquisition cost over the fair value of the acquired net assets is recorded as goodwill. We expense as incurred the costs of internally developing, maintaining, or restoring intangible assets that are not specifically identifiable, that have indeterminate lives or that are inherent in a continuing business and related to the entity as a whole. We amortize the recorded cost of intangible assets with finite lives on a straight line basis over their estimated lives, principally the terms of the related contractual agreements giving rise to them. We do not amortize goodwill or intangible assets with indefinite lives but instead we review these assets each year (or more frequently if impairment indicators arise) for impairment. See Note 8 for more information about our intangible assets.

Internal Use Software Costs. During the application development stage of an internal use computer software project, we capitalize (i) the external direct costs of materials and services consumed in developing or obtaining the internal use computer software, (ii) to the extent of time spent directly on the project, payroll costs of employees directly associated with, and who devote time to, the project, and (iii) related interest costs incurred. Internal and external costs incurred in the preliminary project stage and post-implementation stage, such as for exploring alternative technologies, vendor selection and maintenance, are expensed as incurred, as are all training costs. We account for the costs of significant upgrades and enhancements that result in additional functionality in the same manner as similar costs for new software projects. We expense as incurred the costs of all other upgrades and enhancements. The amounts capitalized in accordance with this policy are included in the property and equipment balances in our consolidated balance sheet.

Impairment. We review definite lived assets for indicators of impairment during each reporting period. We recognize impairment charges when (a) the carrying value of a long lived or indefinite lived asset group to be held and used in the business is not recoverable and exceeds its fair value and (b) when the carrying value of a long lived asset to be disposed of exceeds the estimated fair value of the asset less the estimated cost to sell the asset. Our estimates of fair value are based on our estimates of likely market participant assumptions including with respect to projected operating results, rental payments and the discount rate used to measure the present value of projected future cash flows. If the business climate deteriorates our actual results may not be consistent with these assumptions and estimates. We recognize such impairment charges in the period during which the circumstances surrounding an asset to be held and used have changed such that the carrying value is no longer recoverable, or during which a commitment to a plan to dispose of the asset is made. The lowest level of asset groupings for which the cash flows are largely independent of the cash flows of other assets

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

and liabilities is the individual travel center and, accordingly, it is at the individual travel center level that we perform our impairment analysis for substantially all of our property and equipment. We evaluate definite lived intangible assets for impairment when indicators exist and we evaluate goodwill and indefinite lived intangible assets for impairment at least annually. GAAP permits that we first perform a qualitative assessment to determine whether a quantitative assessment is required. We subject goodwill and intangible assets to further evaluation and recognize impairment charges when events and circumstances indicate the carrying value of the goodwill or intangible asset exceeds the fair market value of the asset. We include impairment charges, when required, in depreciation and amortization expense in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss).

Deferred Financing Costs. We capitalize costs incurred to borrow and we amortize those costs as interest expense over the term of the related borrowing. Deferred financing costs were \$1,511 and \$1,676 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, net of accumulated amortization of \$416 and \$64, respectively, and are included in other noncurrent assets in our consolidated balance sheet. We recognized \$107 of expense to write off deferred financing fees when we entered into an amended and restated loan and security agreement, or the credit facility, in October 2011 and we capitalized \$1,542 of costs related to entering the credit facility in 2011. In 2012 we capitalized \$165 of costs related to the issuance of our 8.25% Senior Notes due on January 15, 2028, or the Senior Notes, and in January 2013 capitalized an additional \$4,635 of costs related to that offering. We estimate we will recognize future amortization of deferred financing fees, including the costs incurred during January 2013, of approximately \$673 in each of the years from 2013 through 2015, \$609 in 2016 and \$320 in 2017.

Classification of Costs and Expenses. Cost of goods sold (excluding depreciation) represents the costs of fuels and other products sold, including freight. Site level operating expenses principally represent costs incurred in operating our travel centers, consisting primarily of labor, maintenance, supplies, utilities, property taxes, inventory losses, environmental costs, and credit card transaction fees.

Share Based Employee Compensation. We recognize compensation cost related to share based payment transactions in the financial statements based on the fair value at the grant date. The awards made under our share award plan to date have consisted of share grants and not share options. Shares issued to directors vest immediately. Shares issued to others vest in five to ten equal annual installments beginning on the date of grant. The compensation expense related to share grants is determined based on the market value of our shares on either the date of grant for employees or the vesting date for nonemployees, as appropriate, with the aggregate value of the granted shares amortized to expense over the related vesting period. We include share based compensation expense in selling, general and administrative expenses in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss).

Environmental Remediation. We record the expense of remediation costs and penalties when the obligation to remediate is probable and the amount of associated costs is reasonably determinable. We include remediation expenses within site level operating expenses in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss). Generally, the timing of remediation accruals coincides with completion of a feasibility study or the commitment to a formal plan of action. Accrued liabilities related to environmental matters are recorded on an undiscounted basis because of the uncertainty associated with the timing of the related future payments. We record a receivable if recoveries of

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

remediation costs from third parties are probable. The accrual for environmental matters is included in other noncurrent liabilities in our consolidated balance sheet, with the amount estimated to be expended within the subsequent twelve months included in other current liabilities.

Self Insurance Accruals. We establish accruals under insurance programs for which we pay deductibles and for which we are partially self insured up to certain stop loss amounts for both estimated losses on known claims and claims incurred but not reported, based on claims histories and using actuarial methods.

Asset Retirement Obligations. We recognize the future costs for our obligations related to the removal of our underground storage tanks and to remove leasehold improvements as required at expiration of the respective leases over the estimated useful lives of each tank or leasehold improvement. We record a liability for the fair value of an asset retirement obligation with a corresponding increase to the carrying value of the related long lived asset at the time an underground storage tank or leasehold improvement is installed. We amortize the amount recorded as property and equipment and recognize accretion expense in connection with the discounted liability over the lesser of the remaining life of the respective underground storage tank or the remaining term of the underlying lease. We base the estimated liability on our historical experiences in removing these assets, their estimated useful lives, external estimates as to the cost to remove the assets in the future and regulatory or contractual requirements. The liability is a discounted liability using a credit adjusted risk free rate. Revisions to the liability could occur due to changes in removal costs, asset useful lives or if new regulations regarding the removal of such tanks are enacted and/or amendments to the lease contracts are negotiated. We are obligated to remove underground storage tanks and to remove certain other assets at certain sites we lease. See Note 7 for more information about our asset retirement obligations.

Leasing Transactions. Leasing transactions are a material part of our business. The following discussion summarizes various aspects of our accounting for leasing transactions and the related balances.

Operating Lease Expense. We charge rent under operating leases without scheduled rent increases to expense over the lease term as it becomes payable. Certain operating leases specify scheduled rent increases over the lease term or other lease payments that are not scheduled evenly throughout the lease term. We recognize the effects of those scheduled rent increases in rent expense over the lease term on an average, or straight line, basis. The rent payments resulting from our sales to HPT of improvements to the properties we lease from HPT are contingent rent. Other than at the 14 travel centers discussed below under "Sale/leaseback Financing Obligation," we recognize the expense related to this contingent rent evenly throughout the lease term beginning on the dates of the related sales to HPT.

Leasehold improvements receivable. In connection with the commitment by HPT to fund up to \$125,000 of capital projects at the sites we lease under the TA Lease, we recognized a receivable of the discounted value of the expected future amounts to be received from HPT, based upon our expected timing of receipt of these future payments as of the date we entered the TA Lease. We accreted this receivable over the time this receivable was expected to be received, and such

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

accretion was recognized as interest income. The receivable was fully accreted and collected from HPT by September 30, 2010.

Sale/leaseback Financing Obligation. GAAP governing the transactions related to our entering the TA Lease required us to recognize in our consolidated balance sheets the leased assets at 13 of the travel centers previously owned by our predecessor that we now lease from HPT because we sublease more than a minor portion of those travel centers to third parties, and one travel center that did not qualify for operating lease treatment for other reasons. Accordingly, we recorded the leased assets at these travel centers at an amount equal to HPT's recorded initial carrying amounts, which were equal to their fair values, and recognized an equal amount of liability that is presented as sale/leaseback financing obligation in our consolidated balance sheet. We recognize a portion of the total rent payments to HPT related to these assets as a reduction of the sale/leaseback financing obligation and a portion as interest expense in our consolidated statements of operations. We determine the allocation of these rent payments to the liability and to interest expense using the effective interest method. The assets and liabilities resulting from this accounting for the affected sites are derecognized when the subleases end and we defer any resulting gain or loss, as further discussed below under "Deferred Gain on Sale/Leaseback Transactions". At sites for which we have recorded a sale/leaseback financing obligation, we follow this same accounting when we sell to HPT improvements at those sites.

Deferred Gain on Sale/Leaseback Transactions. Under GAAP, the gain or loss from the sale portion of a sale/leaseback transaction is deferred and amortized into rent expense on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Deferred Tenant Improvements Allowance. HPT committed to fund up to \$125,000 of capital projects at the sites we lease under the TA Lease without an increase in rent payable by us, which amount HPT had fully funded by September 30, 2010, net of discounting to reflect our accelerated receipt of those funds. In connection with this commitment, we recognized a liability for the rent deemed to be related to this improvement allowance. This improvement allowance was initially recorded at an amount equal to the leasehold improvements receivable we recognized for the discounted value of the then expected future amounts to be received from HPT, based upon our then expected timing of receipt of those tenant improvements funding payments. We amortize the deferred tenant improvements allowance on a straight line basis over the term of the TA Lease as a reduction of rent expense.

Deferred Rent Obligation. Pursuant to a rent deferral agreement with HPT, through December 31, 2010, we deferred a total of \$150,000 of rent payable to HPT. The deferred rent obligation is payable in two installments, \$107,085 in December 2022 and \$42,915 in June 2024. This obligation does not bear interest, unless certain events of default or other events occur, including a change of control of us.

Income Taxes. We establish deferred income tax assets and liabilities to reflect the future tax consequences of differences between the tax bases and financial statement bases of assets and liabilities. We reduce the measurement of deferred tax assets, if necessary, by a valuation allowance when it is more likely than not the deferred tax asset will not be realized.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

As required by the FASB Accounting Standards CodificationTM, or ASC, Topic, *Income Taxes*, we recognize the financial statement benefit of a tax position only after determining that the relevant tax authority would more likely than not sustain the position following an audit. For tax positions meeting the more likely than not threshold, the amount we recognize in the financial statements is the largest benefit that has a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement with the relevant tax authority. We classify interest and penalties related to uncertain tax positions, if any, in our financial statements as a component of interest expense and general and administrative expense, respectively. We have concluded that the effects of uncertain tax positions, if any, are not material to our consolidated financial statements.

Concentration of Credit Risk. We grant credit to some of our trucking company customers and are therefore exposed to a concentration of our accounts receivable from that one industry. We may require letters of credit or other collateral from customers based on our evaluation of their credit worthiness.

Certain Significant Risks and Uncertainties. We are exposed to risks arising from the changes in the demand for and the price of fuel. Because petroleum products are traded in commodity markets, material changes in demand for and the price of fuel worldwide and financial speculation in these commodities markets may have a material effect upon the prices we have to pay for fuel and may also impact our customers' demand for fuel and other products.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments. The fair values of financial instruments classified as current assets or current liabilities approximate the carrying values due to the short term maturity of the instruments.

Reclassifications and Revisions. Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to be consistent with the current year presentation. We previously had included the liability (approximately \$10,900 at December 31, 2011) for the estimated amounts due to HPT at the end of the terms of the HPT Leases related to the retirement obligation for underground and above ground storage tanks in the other noncurrent liabilities balance along with the liability for asset retirement obligations at our other sites, but revised our accounting for this liability such that it is now included in the HPT Leases liabilities balance and have reflected the revised accounting in the prior year balances. The total amounts of prior year liabilities are unchanged. We also revised the presentation of the 2010 distribution from an equity investee from investing activities to operating activities in our statement of cash flows.

Recently Issued Accounting Pronouncements

In July 2012, the FASB issued an update to amend ASC Topic No. 350, *Intangibles Goodwill and Other*. This guidance permits an entity first to assess qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that an indefinite-lived intangible asset is impaired as a basis for determining whether it is necessary to perform a quantitative impairment test. The more likely than not threshold is defined as having a likelihood of more than 50 percent. In accordance with this update, an entity will have an option not to calculate annually the fair value of an indefinite lived intangible asset if the entity determines that it is not more likely than not that the asset is impaired. This update is effective for annual and interim impairment tests performed for fiscal years beginning after September 15, 2012. We adopted this guidance during the fourth quarter of 2012.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

In June 2011, the FASB issued an update to amend ASC Topic No. 220, *Comprehensive Income*, which amended its guidance on the presentation of comprehensive income in financial statements with a stated intention of improving the comparability, consistency and transparency of financial reporting and to increase the prominence of items that are recorded in other comprehensive income. The new accounting guidance requires entities to report components of comprehensive income in either (1) a single statement that presents net income and comprehensive income, or (2) a separate statement of comprehensive income immediately following the income statement. Companies are no longer allowed to present comprehensive income on the statement of changes in shareholders' equity. In both options, companies must present the components of net income, total net income, the components of other comprehensive income, total other comprehensive income and total comprehensive income. In addition, in December 2011, the FASB issued an amendment to the standard that deferred the requirement to present components of reclassifications of other comprehensive income on the face of the income statement. The provisions of both pieces of new guidance are effective for fiscal years, and interim periods within those years, beginning after December 15, 2011, and require retrospective application for all periods presented. Our adoption of this new standard, which was effective January 1, 2012, affected our presentation of comprehensive income but did not otherwise affect our financial position or results of operations.

3. Earnings Per Share

Unvested shares issued under our share award plan are deemed participating securities because they participate equally in earnings with all of our other common shares. The following table presents a reconciliation from net income (loss) to the net income (loss) available to common shareholders and the related earnings per share.

| | Year Ended December 31, | | |
|--|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Net income (loss), as reported | \$ 32,198 | \$ 23,574 | \$ (66,690) |
| Less: net income (loss) attributable to participating securities | 1,851 | 1,384 | (4,133) |
| Net income (loss) available to common shareholders | \$ 30,347 | \$ 22,190 | \$ (62,557) |
| Weighted average common shares ⁽¹⁾ | 27,193,889 | 22,689,063 | 16,286,307 |
| Basic and diluted net income (loss) per share | \$ 1.12 | \$ 0.98 | \$ (3.84) |

(1) Excludes the unvested shares granted under our share award plan, which shares are considered participating securities because they participate equally in earnings and losses with all of our other common shareholders. The weighted average number of unvested shares outstanding for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, was 1,658,718, 1,415,892 and 1,076,027, respectively.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

4. Accounts Receivable

Changes in, and balances of, the allowance for doubtful accounts receivable were as follows:

| | Balance at Beginning of Period | Amounts Charged/ (Credited) To Expense | Amounts Charged Off, Net of Recoveries | Balance at End of Period |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Year Ended December 31, 2012 | | | | |
| Deducted from accounts receivable for doubtful accounts | \$ 1,679 | \$ 349 | \$ (512) | \$ 1,516 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2011 | | | | |
| Deducted from accounts receivable for doubtful accounts | \$ 2,023 | \$ 99 | \$ (443) | \$ 1,679 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2010 | | | | |
| Deducted from accounts receivable for doubtful accounts | \$ 2,901 | \$ (183) | \$ (695) | \$ 2,023 |

5. Inventories

Inventories at December 31, 2012 and 2011, consisted of the following:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Nonfuel products | \$ 144,025 | \$ 128,341 |
| Fuel products | 46,981 | 39,926 |
| Total inventories | \$ 191,006 | \$ 168,267 |

6. Acquisitions

During the year ended December 31, 2012, we invested \$52,310 to purchase ten travel centers in six business combination transactions and to acquire from our franchisees the operations at four travel centers we previously subleased to those franchisees in two business combination transactions. Each of these transactions was the purchase of assets for cash and was accounted for as a business combination. See Note 16 below for further information regarding the acquisitions of former franchisee businesses and certain lease accounting effects resulting from those transactions.

During the year ended December 31, 2011, we invested \$37,975 to purchase eight travel centers. Each of these transactions was the purchase of assets for cash. We invested \$31,371 to purchase six travel centers in two business combination transactions and one transaction for \$6,604 was accounted for as an asset purchase because it had not been an operating business at the time we acquired it.

During 2012 and 2011, we incurred \$785 and \$446, respectively, of acquisition costs related to the business combinations described above, which amounts are included in our consolidated statements of operations. We have included the results of these sites in our consolidated financial statements from their respective dates of acquisition. The pro forma impact of including the results of operations of the acquired businesses from the beginning of the periods presented in our condensed consolidated financial statements is not material to our consolidated results of operations for those periods. The following table summarizes the amounts assigned, based on their fair values, to the assets we acquired and liabilities we assumed in the business combinations described above. The estimates of fair values

Table of Contents**TravelCenters of America LLC****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)****6. Acquisitions (Continued)**

for certain of the assets acquired and liabilities assumed during 2012 were based upon preliminary calculations and valuations and our estimates and assumptions for those assets and liabilities are subject to change as we obtain additional information during the respective measurement periods (up to one year from the acquisition date).

| | Years Ended December 31, | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Cash | \$ 240 | \$ 155 |
| Accounts receivable | 93 | |
| Inventories | 5,679 | 1,425 |
| Other current assets | 77 | |
| Property and equipment | 45,283 | 30,727 |
| Goodwill | 1,690 | |
| Intangible assets | | 105 |
| Other noncurrent assets | 83 | 290 |
| Other current liabilities | (314) | (748) |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | (521) | (583) |
| Total aggregate purchase price | \$ 52,310 | \$ 31,371 |

During January and February of 2013 we acquired for cash the assets at two travel centers for an aggregate of \$8,768. We expect to account for these transactions as business combinations.

7. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment, at cost, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, consisted of the following:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Land and improvements | \$ 176,313 | \$ 179,047 |
| Buildings and improvements | 120,529 | 93,656 |
| Machinery, equipment and furniture | 205,195 | 166,687 |
| Leasehold improvements | 182,955 | 158,580 |
| Construction in progress | 95,744 | 48,740 |
| | 780,736 | 646,710 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization | 204,224 | 166,767 |
| Property and equipment, net | \$ 576,512 | \$ 479,943 |

Total depreciation expense for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, was \$46,888, \$42,344 and \$39,859, respectively, including impairment charges of \$351, \$302 and \$536 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

The following table shows the amounts of property and equipment owned by HPT but recognized in our consolidated balance sheet and included within the balances of property and equipment shown in the table above, as a result of the required accounting for the assets funded by HPT under the

Table of Contents**TravelCenters of America LLC****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)****7. Property and Equipment (Continued)**

tenant improvements allowance and for the assets that we lease from HPT that did not qualify for sale/leaseback accounting. During 2012, we acquired the businesses of the former franchisees at four travel centers that we subleased to the franchisees and that did not previously qualify for sale/leaseback accounting. Those acquisitions eliminated the sublease such that these sites then qualified for sale/leaseback accounting. Accordingly, we derecognized the undepreciated and unamortized balances of the assets and liabilities related to those sites as of the dates of the respective acquisitions. We reduced our property and equipment balance by \$22,229 and our sale/leaseback financing obligation balance by \$24,646 (\$231 current and \$24,415 noncurrent), resulting in a gain of \$2,417 that was deferred and will be amortized as a reduction of rent expense over the remaining term of the TA Lease.

| | December 31, | |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Land and improvements | \$ 62,818 | \$ 84,363 |
| Buildings and improvements | 21,999 | 21,384 |
| Machinery, equipment and furniture | 5,925 | 1,873 |
| Leasehold improvements | 115,820 | 115,962 |
| | 206,562 | 223,582 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization | 53,527 | 46,368 |
| Property and equipment, net | \$ 153,035 | \$ 177,214 |

At December 31, 2012, our property and equipment balance included assets of \$16,842 that we intend to sell to HPT as permitted by the HPT Leases; however, HPT is not obligated to purchase those assets.

The following table shows a reconciliation of our asset retirement obligation liability for the sites we operate that we do not lease from HPT, which is included within other noncurrent liabilities in our consolidated balance sheets.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$ 829 | \$ 485 | \$ 1,506 |
| Liabilities acquired | 505 | 361 | |
| Liabilities settled | | (74) | (1,056) |
| Accretion expense | 96 | 57 | 35 |
| Balance at end of period | \$ 1,430 | \$ 829 | \$ 485 |

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

8. Goodwill and Intangible Assets

Goodwill and intangible assets, net, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, consisted of the following:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Amortizable intangible assets: | | |
| Agreements with franchisees | \$ 18,258 | \$ 24,899 |
| Leasehold interests | 2,094 | 2,094 |
| Other | 3,200 | 3,301 |
| Total amortizable intangible assets | 23,552 | 30,294 |
| Less: accumulated amortization | (13,107) | (16,243) |
| Net carrying value of amortizable intangible assets | 10,445 | 14,051 |
| Carrying value of trademarks (indefinite lived) | 7,906 | 7,906 |
| Intangible assets, net | 18,351 | 21,957 |
| Goodwill | 1,690 | |
| Goodwill and intangible assets, net | \$ 20,041 | \$ 21,957 |

Total amortization expense for amortizable intangible assets for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010 was \$3,606, \$3,892 and \$3,136, respectively, including \$215, \$1,034 and \$147, respectively, related to write offs related to early terminations of franchise and lease agreements for various reasons.

We estimate the aggregate amortization expense for our amortizable intangible assets to be \$1,020 for each of the years from 2013 through 2017. We amortize our amortizable intangible assets over a weighted average period of 11 years.

Goodwill. Goodwill results from our business combinations and represents the excess of amounts paid to the sellers over the fair values of the tangible assets acquired. During 2012, we recognized \$1,690 of goodwill in connection with our business combinations. We did not have any goodwill in 2011 or 2010. Our goodwill is deductible for tax purposes.

9. Other Current Liabilities

Other current liabilities, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, consisted of the following:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Taxes payable, other than income taxes | \$ 35,127 | \$ 42,240 |
| Accrued wages and benefits | 13,494 | 16,246 |
| Self insurance program accruals, current portion | 14,797 | 15,503 |
| Loyalty program points reserve | 11,967 | 10,868 |
| Accrued capital expenditures | 15,327 | 9,930 |
| Environmental reserve, current portion | 7,988 | 5,447 |
| Other | 12,468 | 13,390 |
| Total other current liabilities | \$ 111,168 | \$ 113,624 |

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

10. Other Noncurrent Liabilities

Other noncurrent liabilities, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, consisted of the following:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Asset retirement obligations | \$ 1,430 | \$ 829 |
| Environmental reserve, noncurrent portion | 2,367 | 3,495 |
| Self insurance program accruals, noncurrent portion | 16,573 | 15,174 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 10,215 | 15,415 |
| Total other noncurrent liabilities | \$ 30,585 | \$ 34,913 |

11. Revolving Credit Facility

In October 2011, we entered into the credit facility with a group of commercial banks that amended and restated our preexisting credit facility. Under the credit facility, a maximum of \$200,000 may be drawn, repaid and redrawn until maturity in October 2016. The availability of this maximum amount is subject to limits based on qualified collateral. Subject to available collateral and lender participation, the maximum amount may be increased to \$300,000. The credit facility may be used for general business purposes and provides for the issuance of letters of credit. Generally, no principal payments are due until maturity. Borrowings under the credit facility bear interest at a rate based on, at our option, LIBOR or a base rate plus a premium (initially 225 basis points in the case of LIBOR or 125 basis points in the case of the base rate, subject to adjustment based upon facility availability, utilization and other matters). Pursuant to the credit facility, we pay a monthly unused line fee equal to an applicable fee rate, which is initially 50 basis points, times the average daily principal amount of unused commitments under the credit facility. The unused line fee applicable rate is subject to adjustment according to the average daily principal amount of unused commitment under the credit facility each month.

The credit facility requires us to maintain certain levels of collateral, limits our ability to incur debt and liens, restricts us from making certain investments and paying dividends and other distributions, requires us to maintain a minimum fixed charge ratio in certain circumstances and contains other customary covenants and conditions. The credit facility provides for the acceleration of principal and interest payments upon an event of default including, but not limited to, failure to pay interest or other amounts due, a change in control of us, as defined in the credit facility, and our default under certain contracts, including the HPT Leases and our business management and shared services agreement with RMR.

The credit facility is secured by substantially all of our cash, accounts receivable, inventory, equipment and intangible assets, and the amount available to us is determined by reference to a borrowing base calculation based on eligible cash, accounts receivable and inventory. At December 31, 2012, a total of \$132,288 was available to us for loans and letters of credit under the credit facility. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, there were no borrowed amounts outstanding under the credit facility. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, we had outstanding \$58,229 and \$65,686, respectively, of letters of credit issued under this facility securing certain purchases, insurance, fuel tax and other trade obligations. These letters of credit reduce the amount available for borrowing under the credit facility.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

12. Leasing Transactions

As a lessee. We have entered into lease agreements covering most of our travel center locations, warehouse space, and various equipment and vehicles, with the most significant leases being the two we have entered with HPT as further described below. Certain leases include renewal options, and certain leases include escalation clauses and purchase options. Future minimum lease payments required under leases that had remaining noncancelable lease terms in excess of one year, as of December 31, 2012, were as follows (included herein are the full payments due under the HPT Leases including the amount attributed to those sites that are accounted for as a financing in our consolidated balance sheet as reflected in the sale/leaseback financing obligation):

| Year ending December 31, | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 2013 | \$ 225,115 |
| 2014 | 222,601 |
| 2015 | 221,357 |
| 2016 | 218,691 |
| 2017 | 217,364 |
| Thereafter | 1,334,389 |
| Total | \$ 2,439,517 |

The expenses related to our operating leases are included in the site level operating expense, selling, general and administrative expense, and real estate rent lines of the operating expenses section of our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss). Rent expense under our operating leases consisted of the following:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Minimum rent | \$ 195,964 | \$ 189,984 | \$ 233,596 |
| Sublease rent | 8,736 | 8,625 | 8,602 |
| Contingent rent | 1,710 | 790 | 623 |
| Total rent expense | \$ 206,410 | \$ 199,399 | \$ 242,821 |

We have two leases with HPT, pursuant to which we lease 185 travel centers from HPT. Our TA Lease is for 145 travel centers that we operate under the TA brand name. The TA Lease became effective on January 31, 2007. Our Petro Lease is for 40 travel centers that we operate under the Petro brand name. Our Petro Lease became effective on May 30, 2007. The TA Lease expires on December 31, 2022. The Petro Lease expires on June 30, 2024, and may be extended by us for up to two additional periods of 15 years each.

The HPT Leases are "triple net" leases that require us to pay all costs incurred in the operation of the leased travel centers, including personnel, utilities, acquiring inventories, providing services to customers, insurance, paying real estate and personal property taxes, environmental related expenses, underground storage tank removal costs and ground lease payments at those travel centers at which HPT leases the property and subleases it to us. We also are required to generally indemnify HPT for certain environmental matters and for liabilities which arise during the terms of the leases from ownership or operation of the leased travel centers. The TA Lease and the Petro Lease also include arbitration provisions for the resolution of certain disputes, claims and controversies. See Note 16 for a further description of the HPT Leases and related transactions and relationships.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

12. Leasing Transactions (Continued)

As a lessor. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, six and ten, respectively, of the travel centers we lease from HPT were subleased to franchisees under operating lease agreements. Prior to the HPT Transaction, our predecessor owned these sites and leased them to these franchisees. During 2012, we acquired the operations at four travel centers that previously had been subleased from us by former franchisees. The initial terms of each of the ten subleases expired between June and September of 2012 and the current terms of the six remaining sublease agreements expire between June and September 2017. Five of the six subleases have one remaining renewal option for an additional five year period; the sixth sublease has no further renewal option. These leases include rent escalations that are contingent on future events, namely inflation or our investing in capital improvements at these travel centers. Rent revenue from these operating leases totaled \$5,724, \$5,152 and \$5,045 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. Future minimum lease payments due to us for the six subleased sites under these operating leases as of December 31, 2012, were as follows:

| Year ending December 31, | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 2013 | \$ 4,950 |
| 2014 | 4,950 |
| 2015 | 4,950 |
| 2016 | 4,950 |
| 2017 | 2,731 |
| Total | \$ 22,531 |

13. Shareholders' Equity

In May 2011, we issued 10,000,000 common shares in a public offering, raising proceeds of approximately \$53,135 after underwriters' discounts and commissions and other costs of the offering.

Share Award Plan. An aggregate of 6,000,000 of our common shares were authorized for issuance under the terms of our Amended and Restated 2007 Equity Compensation Plan, or the Plan. We awarded a total of 767,925, 760,875 and 750,350 common shares under the Plan during the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, with aggregate market values of \$3,377, \$3,363 and \$2,639, respectively, based on the closing prices of our common shares on the exchange on which they are traded on the dates of the awards. During the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, we recognized total share based compensation expense of \$2,470, \$2,435 and \$1,745, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, the vesting date fair value of common shares that vested was \$2,358, \$2,013 and \$1,475, respectively.

The weighted average grant date fair value of common shares issued in 2012, 2011 and 2010 was \$4.40, \$4.42 and \$3.52, per share, respectively. Shares issued to directors vest immediately and the related compensation expense is recognized on the grant date. Shares issued to others vest in five to ten equal annual installments beginning on the date of grant and the related compensation expense is recognized ratably over the vesting periods. As of December 31, 2012, 2,147,200 shares remained available for issuance under the Plan. As of December 31, 2012, there was a total of \$7,910 of share based compensation related to unvested shares that will be amortized to expense over a weighted average remaining service period of 5.3 years. The following table sets forth the number and weighted

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

13. Shareholders' Equity (Continued)

average grant date fair value of unvested common shares and common shares issued under the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2012.

| | Number Of Shares | Weighted Average Grant Date Fair Value Per Share |
|---|---------------------|--|
| Unvested shares balance as of December 31, 2011 | 1,652,190 | \$ 4.36 |
| Granted during 2012 | 767,925 | \$ 4.40 |
| Vested during 2012 | (574,820) | \$ 4.13 |
| Forfeited/canceled during 2012 | (7,130) | \$ 3.75 |
| Unvested shares balance as of December 31, 2012 | 1,838,165 | \$ 4.45 |

Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income. Accumulated other comprehensive income at December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, consisted of the following:

| | Foreign currency translation adjustment | Equity interest in investee's unrealized gain (loss) on investments | Accumulated other comprehensive income |
|--|--|---|---|
| Balance at December 31, 2009 | \$ 815 | \$ | \$ 815 |
| 2010 foreign currency translation adjustment, net of tax of \$132 | 378 | | 378 |
| Balance at December 31, 2010 | \$ 1,193 | \$ | \$ 1,193 |
| 2011 foreign currency translation adjustment, net of tax of \$(55) | (136) | | (136) |
| 2011 equity interest in investee's unrealized gain on investments | | 77 | 77 |
| Balance at December 31, 2011 | \$ 1,057 | \$ 77 | \$ 1,134 |
| 2012 foreign currency translation adjustment, net of tax of \$55 | 143 | | 143 |
| 2012 equity interest in investee's unrealized gain on investments | | 22 | 22 |
| Balance at December 31, 2012 | \$ 1,200 | \$ 99 | \$ 1,299 |

14. Income Taxes

Our state and federal income tax returns for periods subsequent to January 31, 2007 are subject to possible examination by the respective tax authorities. We believe we have made adequate provision for income taxes and interest and penalties on unpaid income taxes that may become payable for years not yet examined.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

14. Income Taxes (Continued)

The provision for income taxes was as follows:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Current tax provision: | | | |
| State | \$ 850 | \$ 950 | \$ 680 |
| Total current tax provision | 850 | 950 | 680 |
| Deferred tax provision: | | | |
| Federal | 587 | 383 | 185 |
| State | 54 | 46 | 22 |
| Total deferred tax provision | 641 | 429 | 207 |
| Total tax provision | \$ 1,491 | \$ 1,379 | \$ 887 |

Because we do not have sufficient history of generating taxable income we do not currently recognize in our income tax provision the future benefit of all of our deferred tax assets, including the tax benefit associated with our loss carry forwards from prior years. We will continue to assess our ability to generate taxable income during future periods in which our deferred tax assets may be realized. If and when we believe it is more likely than not that we will recover our deferred tax assets, we will reverse the valuation allowance as an income tax benefit in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), which will affect our results of operations. As a result of certain trading in our shares during 2007, our 2007 federal net operating loss of \$50,346 and other tax credit carry forwards are generally not available to us for the purpose of offsetting future taxable income because of certain Internal Revenue Code provisions regarding changes in ownership of our common shares. As of December 31, 2012, we had an unrestricted federal net operating loss carry forward of approximately \$109,795. In 2012 and 2011, we used \$26,114 and \$31,979, respectively, of our federal net operating loss carryforward to reduce the amount of tax that would otherwise have been payable. Our federal net operating loss carryforward and tax credits, and the majority of our state net operating loss carry forwards will begin to expire in 2027. Certain of our other state net operating loss carry forwards began to expire in 2012. In addition, certain states have temporarily suspended the use of net operating loss carry forwards.

Our tax provisions for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, were \$1,491, \$1,379 and \$887, respectively, which included tax expense of \$850, \$950 and \$680, respectively, for certain state taxes on operating income that are payable without regard to our tax loss carry forwards. During 2012, 2011 and 2010, tax expense also included \$641, \$429, and \$207, respectively, related to a noncash deferred liability arising from foreign currency translation adjustments that are unavailable to offset our deferred tax assets and the amortization of indefinite lived intangible assets for tax purposes but not for GAAP purposes. Our income tax provision differed from the amounts of provision expected to be calculated at statutory rates primarily due to the impact of a valuation allowance. The principal reasons

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

14. Income Taxes (Continued)

for the difference between our income tax provision and the income tax provision (benefit) at the U.S. Federal statutory income tax rate of 35% is as follows:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|-------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| U.S. federal statutory rate applied to income (loss) before taxes | \$ 11,791 | \$ 8,734 | \$ (23,031) |
| State income taxes | 1,817 | 1,544 | (2,382) |
| Benefit of tax credits | (1,178) | (1,243) | (1,062) |
| Taxes on foreign income at different than U.S. rate | 125 | (377) | (153) |
| Change in valuation allowance | (5,066) | (6,472) | 25,315 |
| Revisions of previous estimates | (8,107) | (2,982) | 1,037 |
| Other net | 2,109 | 2,175 | 1,163 |
| Total tax provision | \$ 1,491 | \$ 1,379 | \$ 887 |

F-25

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

14. Income Taxes (Continued)

Significant components of our deferred tax assets and liabilities at December 31, 2012 and 2011, were as follows:

| | 2012 | 2011 |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Current deferred tax assets: | | |
| Reserves | \$ 14,179 | \$ 11,778 |
| Other | 1,558 | 609 |
| Total current deferred tax asset before valuation allowance | 15,737 | 12,387 |
| Valuation allowance | (10,337) | (7,749) |
| Total current deferred tax assets | 5,400 | 4,638 |
| Noncurrent deferred tax assets: | | |
| Straight line rent accrual | 22,437 | 23,010 |
| Reserves | 12,074 | 10,917 |
| Sale/leaseback financing obligation | 33,060 | 38,884 |
| Asset retirement obligation | 556 | 328 |
| Tax credits | 5,662 | 4,913 |
| Tax loss carry forwards | 65,218 | 76,555 |
| Other | 752 | 4,160 |
| Total noncurrent deferred tax asset before valuation allowance | 139,759 | 158,767 |
| Valuation allowance | (92,177) | (99,831) |
| Total noncurrent deferred tax assets | 47,582 | 58,936 |
| Total deferred tax assets | 52,982 | 63,574 |
| Noncurrent deferred tax liabilities: | | |
| Depreciable assets | (31,026) | (43,953) |
| Deferred tenant improvements allowance | (19,534) | (16,901) |
| Intangible assets | (2,431) | (3,351) |
| Other | (1,519) | (317) |
| Total | (54,510) | (64,522) |
| Net deferred tax liabilities | \$ (1,528) | \$ (948) |

Changes in, and balances of, our valuation allowance for deferred tax assets were as follows:

| | Balance at Beginning of Year | Additions/ (Reversals) Recorded in the Provision for Income Taxes | Balance at End of Year |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Year Ended December 31, 2012 | \$ 107,580 | \$ (5,066) | \$ 102,514 |
| Year Ended December 31, 2011 | \$ 114,052 | \$ (6,472) | \$ 107,580 |

Edgar Filing: TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC - Form 10-K

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----|--------|----|--------|----|---------|
| Year Ended December 31, 2010 | \$ | 88,737 | \$ | 25,315 | \$ | 114,052 |
|------------------------------|----|--------|----|--------|----|---------|

F-26

Table of Contents**TravelCenters of America LLC****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)****14. Income Taxes (Continued)**

In measuring our deferred tax assets, we considered all available evidence, both positive and negative, to determine whether, based on the weight of that evidence, a valuation allowance is needed for all or a portion of the deferred tax assets. Judgment is required in considering the relative impact of negative and positive evidence. The weight given to the potential effect of negative and positive evidence is commensurate with the extent to which it can be objectively verified. The more negative evidence that exists, the more positive evidence is necessary and the more difficult it is to support a conclusion that a valuation allowance is unnecessary. In order to assess the likelihood of realizing the benefit of these deferred tax assets, we are required to rely on our projections of future income. We believe that our history of losses coupled with the fact that we have a short history of operating profits that is limited to 2011 and 2012, creates sufficient negative evidence such that we are unable to conclude that realization of the benefit is more likely than not. As a result, we have concluded that it is appropriate to maintain a full valuation allowance against our net deferred tax assets until our profitability becomes more predictable. We may reverse some or all of the valuation allowance when we believe that we will more likely than not realize the benefit of our deferred tax assets. At that time, we will record deferred tax assets as an income tax benefit in our consolidated statements of operations and comprehensive income (loss), which will affect our results of operations. Given our profitability over the past two years and our current expectations, we believe it is reasonably likely that our estimates and assumptions regarding the valuation allowance will change in the future.

15. Equity Investments*Affiliates Insurance Company*

At December 31, 2012, we owned 12.5% of Affiliates Insurance Company, or AIC. Although we own less than 20% of AIC, we use the equity method to account for this investment because we believe that we have significant influence over AIC because all of our Directors are also directors of AIC. This investment had a carrying value of \$5,629 and \$5,291 as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and is presented on our balance sheets in other noncurrent assets. During 2010, we invested \$76 in AIC. During 2012, 2011 and 2010, we recognized income of \$316 and \$140 and a loss of \$1, respectively, related to this investment. See Note 16 for a further description of our transactions with AIC.

Petro Travel Plaza Holdings LLC

We own a 40% interest in Petro Travel Plaza Holdings LLC, or PTP, and operate the two travel centers that PTP owns for which we receive management and accounting fees. This investment is accounted for under the equity method. The carrying value of this investment as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, was \$15,332 and \$18,571, respectively and was included in other noncurrent assets in our consolidated balance sheet. The carrying value of our investment in PTP exceeded the amount of underlying equity in net assets of PTP by \$3,246 as of the date we acquired Petro. This difference arose through the valuation process that was applied to the assets acquired in the Petro Acquisition and is being amortized over a period of 15 years, the estimated useful life of the assets whose values resulted in this difference. The equity income recorded from this investment for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, was \$1,561, \$1,029 and \$758, respectively. See Note 16 for a further description of our transactions with PTP.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

15. Equity Investments (Continued)

The travel centers owned by PTP are encumbered by debt with a balance due of approximately \$18,076 as of December 31, 2012. Since we account for our investment in PTP under the equity method of accounting, we have not recorded a liability for this debt. We are not directly liable for this loan, but the carrying value of our investment in this joint venture could be adversely affected if the joint venture defaulted on this debt and the joint venture's property, which is collateral for this loan, was sold. In connection with the loan agreement entered by PTP in 2009, we and our joint venture partner each agreed to indemnify the lender against liability from environmental matters related to PTP's sites.

Fair Value

It is not practicable to estimate the fair value of TA's investment in the equity of AIC or PTP because of the lack of quoted market prices and the inability to estimate current fair value without incurring excessive costs. However, management believes that the carrying amounts of AIC and PTP at December 31, 2012, were not impaired given these companies' overall financial conditions and earnings trends.

16. Related Party Transactions

Governance Guidelines

We have adopted written Governance Guidelines that address the consideration and approval of any related person transactions. Under these Governance Guidelines, we may not enter into any transaction in which any Director or executive officer, any member of the immediate family of any Director or executive officer or any other related person, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest unless that transaction has been disclosed or made known to our Board of Directors and our Board of Directors reviews and approves or ratifies the transaction by the affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested Directors, even if the disinterested Directors constitute less than a quorum. If there are no disinterested Directors, the transaction must be reviewed and approved or ratified by both (1) the affirmative vote of a majority of our entire Board of Directors and (2) the affirmative vote of a majority of our Independent Directors. The Governance Guidelines further provide that, in determining whether to approve or ratify a transaction, our Board of Directors, or disinterested Directors or Independent Directors, as the case may be, shall act in accordance with any applicable provisions of our limited liability company agreement and bylaws, consider all of the relevant facts and circumstances, and approve only those transactions that are fair and reasonable to us. All related person transactions described below were reviewed and approved or ratified by a majority of the disinterested Directors or otherwise in accordance with our policies described above. In the case of any transaction with us in which any other employee of ours who is subject to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and who has a direct or indirect material interest in the transaction, the employee must seek approval from an executive officer who has no interest in the matter for which approval is being requested.

Relationship with HPT

HPT is our former parent company, our principal landlord and our largest shareholder. We were created as a separate public company in 2007 as a result of a spin off from HPT. As of December 31,

Table of Contents**TravelCenters of America LLC****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)**

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

2012, HPT owned 2,540,000 of our common shares (which included the 1,000,000 of our common shares that HPT purchased from the underwriters in our public equity offering that we completed in May 2011), representing approximately 8.6% of our outstanding common shares. One of our Managing Directors, Mr. Barry Portnoy, is a managing trustee of HPT. Mr. Barry Portnoy's son, Mr. Adam Portnoy, is also a trustee of HPT, and Mr. Barry Portnoy's son-in-law is an executive officer of HPT. Our other Managing Director, Mr. Thomas O'Brien, who is also our President and Chief Executive Officer, was a former executive officer of HPT. In addition, one of our Independent Directors, Mr. Arthur Koumantzolis, was a trustee of HPT at the time we were created; Mr. Koumantzolis resigned and ceased to be a trustee of HPT shortly before he joined our Board of Directors in 2007.

We have two leases with HPT, pursuant to which we lease 185 travel centers from HPT. Our TA Lease is for 145 travel centers that we operate under the "TravelCenters of America" or "TA" brand names. The TA Lease became effective on January 31, 2007. Our Petro Lease is for 40 travel centers that we operate under the "Petro" brand name. Our Petro Lease became effective on May 30, 2007. The TA Lease expires on December 31, 2022. The Petro Lease expires on June 30, 2024, and may be extended by us for up to two additional periods of 15 years each. We have the right to use the "TA", "TravelCenters of America" and other trademarks historically used by our predecessor, which are owned by HPT, during the term of the TA Lease.

The HPT Leases are "triple net" leases that require us to pay all costs incurred in the operation of the leased travel centers, including personnel, utilities, acquiring inventories, providing services to customers, insurance, paying real estate and personal property taxes, environmental related expenses, underground storage tank removal costs and ground lease payments at those travel centers at which HPT leases the property and subleases it to us. We also are required to generally indemnify HPT for certain environmental matters and for liabilities which arise during the terms of the leases from ownership or operation of the leased travel centers. The TA Lease and the Petro Lease also include arbitration provisions for the resolution of disputes.

As amended by the Amendment Agreement that we entered into with HPT on January 31, 2011, and which is further described below, or the Amendment Agreement, the TA Lease requires us to pay minimum rent to HPT of \$135,139 per year for the period from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012, and \$140,139 per year for the period from February 1, 2012 through December 31, 2022. These amounts are exclusive of any increase in minimum rent, as described below, as a result of HPT's purchasing improvements to the leased TA travel centers. During 2012 and 2011 our minimum annual rent under the TA Lease increased by \$4,656 and \$4,184, respectively, due to such purchases. As amended by the Amendment Agreement, the Petro Lease requires us to pay minimum rent to HPT of \$54,160 per year through June 30, 2024. This amount is exclusive of any increase in minimum rent to HPT, as described below, as a result of HPT's purchasing improvements to the leased Petro travel centers. During 2012 and 2011 our minimum annual rent under the Petro Lease increased by \$1,868 and \$1,691, respectively, due to such purchases. As of December 31, 2012, our minimum annual rents payable under the TA Lease and the Petro Lease were \$148,979 and \$57,719, respectively. Effective January 2012, we began to incur percentage rent payable to HPT under the TA Lease. The Petro Lease requires us to incur percentage rent payable to HPT effective January 1, 2013. In each case, the percentage rent equals 3% of increases in nonfuel gross revenues and 0.3% of increases in gross fuel revenues at the leased travel centers over base amounts. The increases in percentage rents attributable

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

to fuel revenues are subject to a maximum each year calculated by reference to changes in the consumer price index. Also, as discussed below, HPT has agreed to waive payment of the first \$2,500 of percentage rent that may become due under our Petro Lease. The total amount of percentage rent that we incurred during the year ended December 31, 2012 was \$1,465. Under the HPT Leases, we are obligated to pay to HPT at lease expiration an amount equal to an estimate of the cost of removing underground storage tanks on the leased sites.

HPT previously agreed to provide up to \$25,000 of tenant improvements allowance funding annually for the first five years of the TA Lease for certain improvements to the leased properties without an increase in our rent. This funding was cumulative, meaning if some of the \$25,000 was not spent in one year it might have been drawn by us from HPT in subsequent years. All improvements funded under the tenant improvements allowance are owned by HPT. On May 12, 2008, we and HPT amended the TA Lease to permit us to receive this tenant improvements allowance funding, without an increase in our rent, from HPT earlier than previously permitted. As we elected to receive funding for these tenant improvements before the time contractually required by the original lease terms, HPT's tenant improvements allowance was discounted to reflect the accelerated receipt of funds by us according to a present value formula established in the amended lease. We recorded the discounted amount of the remaining uncollected tenant improvements allowance in our balance sheet as a leasehold improvements receivable. During the year ended December 31, 2010, we received funding of \$7,015 from HPT for qualifying tenant improvements. As of September 30, 2010, we had received all of the tenant improvements allowance from HPT without an increase in rent payments, portions of which were discounted pursuant to the terms of the lease because we elected to receive those funds on an accelerated basis. We recognized and accounted for this \$125,000 tenant improvements allowance as follows:

We recognized an asset on our balance sheets that we referred to as our leasehold improvements receivable, which represented our right to receive these amounts in the future, at their discounted value, based upon our expected timing of receipt of future payments from HPT. As of September 30, 2010, we had received from HPT all of the \$125,000 tenant improvements allowance available under the TA Lease. Portions of this amount were discounted pursuant to the terms of the lease because we elected to receive those funds on an accelerated basis. We accreted the leasehold improvements receivable over the time this receivable was received, and we recognized such accretion as interest income. Interest income related to this accretion for the year ended December 31, 2010 was \$248. This receivable was fully accreted and collected from HPT by September 30, 2010.

We recognized a liability on our balance sheets that we refer to as our deferred tenant improvements allowance, which represents the then expected future amounts of our unearned tenant improvements allowance from HPT. We reduce this liability by a portion of each rent payment made to HPT. We amortize the deferred tenant improvements allowance over the period of the lease on a straight line basis with an offsetting reduction to rent expense.

Although they are legally owned by HPT, we retained the assets related to the qualifying tenant improvements on our balance sheet after they were funded by HPT and we are amortizing those assets over the estimated useful lives of the assets or the remaining term of the lease, whichever is shorter, as depreciation and amortization expense.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

Under the HPT Leases, we may request that HPT purchase approved amounts for renovations, improvements and equipment at the leased travel centers in return for increases in our minimum annual rent according to the following formula: the minimum rent per year will be increased by an amount equal to the amount paid by HPT multiplied by the greater of (i) 8.5% or (ii) a benchmark U.S. Treasury interest rate plus 3.5%. During 2012, pursuant to the terms of the HPT Leases, we sold to HPT \$76,754 of improvements we previously made to properties leased from HPT, and, as a result, our minimum annual rent payable to HPT increased by approximately \$6,524. During 2011, pursuant to the terms of the HPT Leases, we sold to HPT \$69,122 of improvements we previously made to properties leased from HPT, and, as a result, our minimum annual rent payable to HPT increased by approximately \$5,875. During 2010, we did not sell any such leasehold improvements to HPT. As of December 31, 2012, our property and equipment balance included \$16,842 for similar improvements we have made to HPT owned sites that we intend to request that HPT purchase from us for an increase in future rent; however, HPT is not obligated to purchase these improvements.

The following table sets forth the amounts of minimum lease payments required under the HPT Leases as of December 31, 2012, in each of the years shown.

| Year ending December 31, | Minimum Rent | Rent for Ground Leases Acquired by HPT | Total Minimum Lease Payments Due to HPT | Rent for Ground Leases Subleased from HPT |
|--------------------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| 2013 | \$ 206,698 | \$ 4,988 | \$ 211,686 | \$ 8,832 |
| 2014 | 206,698 | 4,772 | 211,470 | 8,547 |
| 2015 | 206,698 | 4,617 | 211,315 | 7,829 |
| 2016 | 206,698 | 4,668 | 211,366 | 5,751 |
| 2017 | 206,698 | 4,731 | 211,429 | 4,901 |
| 2018 | 206,698 | 4,796 | 211,494 | 4,263 |
| 2019 | 206,698 | 4,470 | 211,168 | 2,432 |
| 2020 | 206,698 | 2,482 | 209,180 | 1,781 |
| 2021 | 206,698 | 1,536 | 208,234 | 1,543 |
| 2022 ⁽¹⁾ | 338,304 | | 338,304 | 829 |
| 2023 | 57,720 | | 57,720 | 232 |
| 2024 ⁽²⁾ | 81,170 | | 81,170 | 17 |

(1) Includes previously deferred rent payments of \$107,085 due on December 31, 2022.

(2) Includes previously deferred rent payments of \$42,915 due on June 30, 2024.

Although certain specified minimum rent payments under the TA Lease increased from 2007 through February 2012, we are required, under generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, to recognize expense related to these payments in equal annual amounts for the term of the lease, or approximately \$126,313 per year for 2011 through the end of the lease term in 2022.

At the time of our spin off from HPT, our acquisitions and transactions with HPT in connection with the Petro Lease and an equity offering we completed in June 2007, we and HPT believed that we were adequately capitalized to meet all of our obligations, including those owed to HPT. Thereafter,

Table of Contents**TravelCenters of America LLC****Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)****(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)****16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)**

however, there were material changes in the market conditions in which we operate. Specifically, the increase during the first half of 2008 in the price of diesel fuel which we buy and sell at our travel centers and the slowing of the U.S. economy during 2008 both adversely affected the volume of our business and increased our working capital requirements. Although we undertook a restructuring of our business to adjust to these changed market conditions, our balance sheet flexibility and liquidity remained a concern to us because of the impact the then weakening economy and fuel price volatility might have on our working capital requirements. Accordingly, on August 11, 2008, we and HPT entered a rent deferral agreement. Under the terms of this deferral agreement we had the option to defer our monthly rent payments to HPT by up to \$5,000 per month for periods beginning July 1, 2008 until December 31, 2010. Also pursuant to the deferral agreement, we issued 1,540,000 of our common shares to HPT (approximately 9.6% of our shares then outstanding immediately after this new issuance). Under the terms of this agreement, interest began to accrue on January 1, 2010 on all unpaid deferred rent at a rate of 1% per month and was payable monthly in arrears by us to HPT. During 2010, we recognized interest expense of \$14,100, on our deferred rent, and at December 31, 2010, we had interest payable to HPT of \$1,450, which we paid in 2011. No additional rent deferrals were permitted for rent periods after December 31, 2010. Any deferred rent (and interest thereon) not previously paid was contractually due to HPT on July 1, 2011. This deferral agreement also included a prohibition on share repurchases and dividends by us while any deferred rent remains unpaid and provided that all deferred rent and interest thereon would become immediately due and payable by us to HPT if certain events provided in that agreement occurred, including a change of control of us (as defined in the agreement) while deferred rent was unpaid. Also, in connection with this deferral agreement, we entered into a registration rights agreement with HPT, which provides HPT with certain rights to require us to conduct a registered public offering with respect to our common shares issued to HPT pursuant to the deferral agreement, which rights continue through the date that is twelve months following the latest of the expiration of the terms of the TA Lease and the Petro Lease. As of December 31, 2010, we had accrued an aggregate of \$150,000 of deferred rent payable to HPT, which amount remained outstanding at December 31, 2012.

On January 31, 2011, we and HPT entered the Amendment Agreement that amended the TA Lease, the Petro Lease and our 2008 rent deferral agreement with HPT. This Amendment Agreement provided for the following:

The minimum annual rent payable to HPT under the TA Lease was reduced effective January 1, 2011, by \$29,983, to \$135,139 per year until February 1, 2012, when it increased to \$140,139 per year through the end of the lease term in December 2022.

The \$5,000 increase in annual minimum rent payable to HPT under the TA Lease that was scheduled to begin on February 1, 2011, was eliminated.

The minimum annual rent payable to HPT under the Petro Lease was reduced effective January 1, 2011, by \$12,017, to \$54,160 through the end of the lease term in June 2024.

The due date for the \$150,000 of rent we had deferred as of December 31, 2010, pursuant to our 2008 rent deferral agreement with HPT was extended from July 1, 2011, so that \$107,085 is now payable on December 31, 2022, and the remaining \$42,915 is now payable on June 30, 2024, and interest ceased to accrue on our deferred rent obligation beginning on January 1, 2011;

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

provided, however, that the deferred rent obligation shall be accelerated and interest shall begin to accrue thereon if certain events provided in the Amendment Agreement occur, including a change of control of us.

HPT will waive payment of the first \$2,500 of percentage rent that may become due under the Petro Lease beginning in 2013, which percentage rent obligation is described above.

The following table summarizes the various amounts related to the HPT Leases and other lessors that are reflected in real estate rent expense in our consolidated statements of operations.

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Cash payments for rent under the HPT Leases and interest on the deferred rent obligation | \$ 207,653 | \$ 196,364 | \$ 188,162 |
| Accrued estimated percentage rent not yet paid (overpaid) | (11) | | |
| Required straight line rent adjustments | (2,664) | 3,021 | 6,986 |
| Rent deferred under rent deferral agreement | | | 60,000 |
| Less interest paid on deferred rent | | (1,450) | (12,650) |
| Less sale/leaseback financing obligation amortization | (2,089) | (2,046) | (1,628) |
| Less portion of rent payments recognized as interest expense | (7,330) | (7,390) | (9,900) |
| Less deferred tenant improvements allowance amortization | (6,769) | (6,769) | (6,769) |
| Amortization of deferred gain on sale/leaseback transactions | (103) | | |
| Rent expense related to HPT Leases | 188,687 | 181,730 | 224,201 |
| Rent paid to others ⁽¹⁾ | 9,915 | 9,764 | 9,785 |
| Straight line rent adjustments for other leases | 325 | 304 | 242 |
| Total real estate rent expense | \$ 198,927 | \$ 191,798 | \$ 234,228 |

(1) Includes rent paid directly to HPT's landlords under leases for properties we sublease from HPT as well as rent related to properties we lease from landlords other than HPT.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

The following table summarizes the various amounts related to the HPT Leases that are included in our consolidated balance sheets.

| | December 31, 2012 | December 31, 2011 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Current HPT Leases liabilities: | | |
| Accrued rent | \$ 17,092 | \$ 16,109 |
| Current portion of sale/leaseback financing obligation ⁽¹⁾ | 2,038 | 2,195 |
| Current portion of straight line rent accrual ⁽²⁾ | 2,149 | 1,750 |
| Total Current HPT Leases obligations | 21,279 | 20,054 |
| Current portion of deferred gain on sale/leaseback transactions ⁽³⁾ | 306 | 68 |
| Current portion of deferred tenant improvements allowance ⁽⁴⁾ | 6,769 | 6,769 |
| Total Current HPT Leases liabilities | \$ 28,354 | \$ 26,891 |
| Noncurrent HPT Leases liabilities: | | |
| Deferred rent obligation ⁽⁵⁾ | \$ 150,000 | \$ 150,000 |
| Sale/leaseback financing obligation ⁽¹⁾ | 82,195 | 97,765 |
| Straight line rent accrual ⁽²⁾ | 55,233 | 57,286 |
| Total Noncurrent HPT Leases obligations | 287,428 | 305,051 |
| Deferred gain on sale/leaseback transactions ⁽³⁾ | 2,792 | 716 |
| Deferred tenant improvements allowance ⁽⁴⁾ | 60,915 | 67,684 |
| Total Noncurrent HPT Leases liabilities | \$ 351,135 | \$ 373,451 |

(1) *Sale/leaseback Financing Obligation.* GAAP governing the transactions related to our entering the TA Lease required us to recognize in our consolidated balance sheets the leased assets at thirteen of the travel centers previously owned by our predecessor that we now lease from HPT because we sublease more than a minor portion of those travel centers to third parties, and one travel center that did not qualify for operating lease treatment for other reasons. Accordingly, we recorded the leased assets at these travel centers at an amount equal to HPT's recorded initial carrying amounts, which were equal to their fair values, and recognized an equal amount of liability that is presented as sale/leaseback financing obligation in our consolidated balance sheet. We recognize a portion of the total rent payments to HPT related to these assets as a reduction of the sale/leaseback financing obligation and a portion as interest expense in our consolidated statements of operations. We determined the allocation of these rent payments to the liability and to interest expense using the effective interest method. The amounts allocated to interest expense during the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, were \$7,330, \$7,390 and \$9,900, respectively.

In August 2012 and November 2012, we acquired the businesses of former franchisees at four travel centers that we subleased to the franchisees and that were four of the thirteen

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

travel centers discussed in the previous paragraph. Those acquisitions eliminated the sublease such that these sites then qualified for sale/leaseback accounting. Accordingly, we removed from our balance sheet the undepreciated and unamortized amounts of the assets and liabilities related to those sites. We reduced our property and equipment balance by \$22,229 and our sale/leaseback financing obligation balance by \$24,646 (\$231 current and \$24,415 noncurrent), resulting in a gain of \$2,417 that was deferred and will be amortized as a reduction of rent expense over the remaining term of the TA Lease. See also footnote (3) below.

(2) *Straight Line Rent Accrual.* The TA Lease included scheduled rent increases over the lease term, as do certain of the leases for properties we sublease from HPT and pay the rent directly to HPT's landlords. Under our leases with HPT, we are obligated to pay to HPT at lease expiration an amount equal to an estimate of the asset retirement obligation we would have if we owned the underlying assets. We recognize the effects of scheduled rent increases and the future payment to HPT for asset retirement obligations in rent expense over the lease terms on a straight line basis, with offsetting entries to this accrual balance.

(3) *Deferred Gain on Sale/Leaseback Transactions.* Under GAAP, the gain or loss from the sale portion of a sale/leaseback transaction is deferred and amortized into rent expense on a straight line basis over the term of the lease. See also footnote (1) above.

(4) *Deferred Tenant Improvements Allowance.* HPT committed to fund up to \$125,000 of capital projects at the sites we lease under the TA Lease without an increase in rent payable by us, which amount HPT had fully funded by September 30, 2010, net of discounting to reflect our accelerated receipt of those funds. In connection with this commitment, we recognized a liability for the rent deemed to be related to this tenant improvements allowance. This deferred tenant improvements allowance was initially recorded at an amount equal to the leasehold improvements receivable we recognized for the discounted value of the then expected future amounts to be received from HPT, based upon our then expected timing of receipt of those payments. We amortize the deferred tenant improvements allowance on a straight line basis over the term of the TA Lease as a reduction of rent expense.

(5) *Deferred Rent Obligation.* Pursuant to a rent deferral agreement with HPT, through December 31, 2010, we deferred a total of \$150,000 of rent payable to HPT. The deferred rent obligation is payable in two installments, \$107,085 in December 2022 and \$42,915 in June 2024. This obligation does not bear interest, unless certain events of default or other events occur, including a change of control of us.

RMR provides management services to both us and HPT and, as noted above, there are other current and historical relationships between us and HPT. Accordingly, the terms of the 2008 rent deferral agreement and the 2011 Amendment Agreement were negotiated and approved by special committees of our Independent Directors and HPT's independent trustees, none of whom are directors or trustees of the other company, and each special committee was represented by separate counsel.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

Relationship with RMR

RMR provides business management and shared services to us pursuant to a business management and shared services agreement, or our business management agreement. One of our Managing Directors, Mr. Barry Portnoy, is Chairman, majority owner and an employee of RMR. Mr. Barry Portnoy's son, Mr. Adam Portnoy, is an owner of RMR and serves as President, Chief Executive Officer and a director of RMR. Our other Managing Director, Mr. Thomas O'Brien, who is also our President and Chief Executive Officer, is also an Executive Vice President of RMR. Mr. Andrew Rebholz, our Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, and Mr. Mark Young, our Executive Vice President and General Counsel, are each a Senior Vice President of RMR. HPT's executive officers are officers of RMR. A majority of our Independent Directors also serve as independent directors or independent trustees of other public companies to which RMR or its affiliates provide management services. Mr. Barry Portnoy serves as a managing director or managing trustee of those companies, including HPT, and Mr. Adam Portnoy serves as a managing trustee of a majority of those companies, including HPT. In addition, officers of RMR serve as officers of those companies. We understand that further information regarding those relationships is provided in the applicable periodic reports and proxy statements filed by those other companies with the SEC.

Messrs. O'Brien and Rebholz were officers of RMR throughout all of 2010, 2011 and 2012 and Mr. Young was an officer of RMR since October 2011. Because at least 80% of Messrs. O'Brien's, Rebholz's and Young's business time is devoted to services to us, 80% of Messrs. O'Brien's, Rebholz's and Young's total cash compensation (that is, the combined base salary and cash bonus paid by us and RMR) was paid by us and the remainder was paid by RMR (for Mr. Young, this arrangement was not in place prior to October 2011). Messrs. O'Brien, Rebholz and Young are also eligible to participate in certain RMR benefit plans. We believe the compensation we paid to these officers reasonably reflected their division of business time; however, periodically, these individuals may divide their business time differently than they do currently and their compensation from us may become disproportionate to this division. RMR has approximately 790 employees and provides management services to other companies in addition to us and HPT.

Our Board of Directors has given our Compensation Committee, which is comprised exclusively of our Independent Directors, authority to act on our behalf with respect to our business management agreement with RMR. The charter of our Compensation Committee requires the Committee annually to review the business management agreement, evaluate RMR's performance under this agreement and renew, amend, terminate or allow to expire the business management agreement.

Pursuant to the business management agreement, RMR assists us with various aspects of our business, which may include, but are not limited to, compliance with various laws and rules applicable to our status as a publicly owned company, maintenance of our travel centers, site selection for properties on which new travel centers may be developed, identification of, and purchase negotiation for, travel centers and travel center companies, accounting and financial reporting, capital markets and financing activities, investor relations and general oversight of our daily business activities, including legal and tax matters, human resources, insurance programs, management information systems and the like. Under our business management agreement, we pay RMR an annual business management fee equal to 0.6% of the sum of our gross fuel margin (which is our fuel sales revenues less our cost of fuel sales) plus our total nonfuel revenues. The fee is payable monthly based on the prior month's

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

margins and revenues. This fee totaled \$10,025, \$9,435 and \$8,508 for the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively. RMR also provides internal audit services to us in return for our share of the total internal audit costs incurred by RMR for us and other companies managed by RMR and its affiliates, which amounts are subject to approval by our Compensation Committee. Our Audit Committee appoints our Director of Internal Audit. Our share of RMR's costs of providing this internal audit function was approximately \$193 for 2012, \$240 for 2011 and \$211 for 2010. These allocated costs are in addition to the business management fees earned by RMR.

The business management agreement automatically renews for successive one year terms unless we or RMR give notice of non-renewal before the end of an applicable term. We or RMR may terminate the business management agreement upon 60 days prior written notice. RMR may also terminate the business management agreement upon five business days notice if we undergo a change of control, as defined in the business management agreement. On December 4, 2012, we amended and restated our business management agreement with RMR to extend the term of the business management agreement until December 31, 2013, and to amend certain procedures for the arbitration of disputes pursuant to the agreement as well as for other clarification and administrative changes.

Under our business management agreement with RMR, we acknowledge that RMR also provides management services to other companies, including HPT. The fact that RMR has responsibilities to other entities, including our largest landlord, HPT, could create conflicts; and in the event of such conflicts, our business management agreement allows RMR to act on its own behalf and on behalf of HPT or such other entity rather than on our behalf.

We are also generally responsible for all of our expenses and certain expenses incurred by RMR on our behalf. Pursuant to our business management agreement, RMR may from time to time negotiate on our behalf with certain third party vendors and suppliers for the procurement of services to us. As part of this arrangement, we may enter agreements with RMR and other companies to which RMR provides management services for the purpose of obtaining more favorable terms from such vendors and suppliers.

Effective July 21, 2011, we entered a property management agreement with RMR under which RMR provides building management services to us for our headquarters building. The charter of our Compensation Committee requires the Committee annually to review the property management agreement, evaluate RMR's performance under this agreement and renew, amend or terminate this agreement. For 2012 and 2011, we paid RMR \$132 and \$58, respectively, for property management services at our headquarters building.

Under the Plan, we typically grant restricted shares to certain employees of RMR who are not also Directors, officers or employees of ours. In 2012, 2011 and 2010, we granted to such persons a total of 59,725, 61,350 and 62,750, respectively, restricted shares with an aggregate value of \$260, \$260 and \$223, respectively, based upon the closing price of our common shares on the NYSE MKT (formerly NYSE Amex) on the dates of grant. One fifth of those restricted shares vested on the grant dates and one fifth vests on each of the next four anniversaries of the grant dates. These share grants to RMR employees are in addition to both the fees we pay to RMR and our share grants to our Directors, officers and employees. On occasion, we have entered into arrangements with former employees of

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

ours or RMR in connection with the termination of their employment with us or RMR, providing for the acceleration of vesting of restricted shares previously granted to them under the Plan.

Other Relationships with HPT and RMR

In connection with our spin off from HPT in 2007, we entered a transaction agreement with HPT and RMR, pursuant to which we granted HPT a right of first refusal to purchase, lease, mortgage or otherwise finance any interest we own in a travel center before we sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise finance that travel center to or with another party, and we granted HPT and any other company managed by RMR a right of first refusal to acquire or finance any real estate of the types in which they invest before we do. We also agreed that for so long as we are a tenant of HPT we will not permit: the acquisition by any person or group of beneficial ownership of 9.8% or more of the voting shares or the power to direct the management and policies of us or any of our subsidiary tenants or guarantors under our leases with HPT; the sale of a material part of our assets or of any such tenant or guarantor; or the cessation of our continuing directors to constitute a majority of our board of directors or any such tenant or guarantor. Also, we agreed not to take any action that might reasonably be expected to have a material adverse impact on HPT's ability to qualify as a REIT and to indemnify HPT for any liabilities it may incur relating to our assets and business. The transaction agreement includes arbitration provisions for the resolution of disputes.

In connection with a shareholder derivative litigation on behalf of us against members of our Board of Directors, HPT and RMR that we settled in 2011, we paid \$119 to HPT and \$51 to RMR pursuant to our indemnity obligations under our limited liability company agreement and our agreements with HPT and RMR.

Relationship with AIC

We, RMR, HPT and five other companies to which RMR provides management services each currently own 12.5% of AIC, an Indiana insurance company. All of our Directors, all of the trustees and directors of the other publicly held AIC shareholders and nearly all of the directors of RMR currently serve on the board of directors of AIC. RMR provides management and administrative services to AIC pursuant to a management and administrative services agreement with AIC. Our Governance Guidelines provide that any material transaction between us and AIC shall be reviewed, authorized and approved or ratified by the affirmative votes of both a majority of our entire Board of Directors and a majority of our Independent Directors. The shareholders agreement among us, the other shareholders of AIC and AIC includes arbitration provisions for the resolution of disputes.

As of December 31, 2012, we have invested \$5,229 in AIC since its formation in November 2008. Although we own less than 20% of AIC, we use the equity method to account for this investment because we believe that we have significant influence over AIC because all of our Directors are also directors of AIC. Our investment in AIC had a carrying value of \$5,629 and \$5,291 as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, which amounts are included in other noncurrent assets on our consolidated balance sheets. For 2012, 2011 and 2010, we recognized income of \$316 and \$140 and a loss of \$1, respectively, related to our investment in AIC. We and the other shareholders of AIC have purchased property insurance providing \$500,000 of coverage pursuant to an insurance program arranged by AIC and with respect to which AIC is a reinsurer of certain coverage amounts. This program was modified

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

16. Related Party Transactions (Continued)

and extended in June 2012 for a one year term, and we paid a premium, including taxes and fees, of \$3,183 in connection with that renewal, which amount may be adjusted from time to time as we acquire or dispose of properties that are included in this program. Our annual premiums for this property insurance in 2011 and 2010 were \$1,664 and \$2,308, respectively. We are also currently investigating the possibilities to expand our insurance relationships with AIC to include other types of insurance. We may invest additional amounts in AIC in the future if the expansion of this insurance business requires additional capital, but we are not obligated to do so. By participating in this insurance business with RMR and the other companies to which RMR provides management services, we expect that we may benefit financially by possibly reducing our insurance expenses or by realizing our pro rata share of any profits of this insurance business. See Note 15 for a further description of our investment in AIC.

Relationship with PTP

PTP is a joint venture between us and Tejon Development Corporation, which owned the land on which PTP has built two travel centers in California. We own a 40% interest in PTP and operate the two travel centers PTP owns for which we receive management and accounting fees. The carrying value of the investment in PTP as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, was \$15,332 and \$18,571, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, we recognized management and accounting fee income of \$800, \$800 and \$725, respectively. At December 31, 2012 and 2011, we had a net payable to PTP of \$575 and \$559, respectively. We recognized income of \$1,561, \$1,029 and \$758 during the years ended December 31, 2012, 2011 and 2010, respectively, related to this investment. In June and September 2012, we received distributions from PTP of \$2,000 and \$2,800, respectively. In June 2010, we received a \$960 distribution from PTP. These distributions represented a return on our investment and, accordingly, are included as operating activities in the accompanying statement of cash flows. See Note 15 for a further description of our investment in PTP.

17. Commitments and Contingencies

Purchase Commitments

As of December 31, 2012, we had entered agreements to purchase four travel centers for an aggregate of \$20,300; two of these acquisitions were completed during January and February 2013 and two acquisitions are expected to close during the first half of 2013. However, those acquisitions are subject to conditions and, accordingly, may be delayed, their terms may be changed or they may not be completed. See Note 6 above for further information regarding these acquisitions.

Guarantees

In the normal course of our business we periodically enter into agreements that contain guarantees or indemnification provisions. While we cannot estimate the maximum amount to which we may be exposed under these agreements, we do not believe that any potential guaranty or indemnification is likely to have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial position or results of operations.

We offer a warranty of our workmanship in our truck maintenance and repair facilities, but we believe the annual warranty expense and corresponding liability are not material to us.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

17. Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

Environmental Matters

Extensive environmental laws regulate our operations and properties. These laws may require us to investigate and clean up hazardous substances, including petroleum products, released at our owned and leased properties. Governmental entities or third parties may hold us liable for property damage and personal injuries, and for investigation, remediation and monitoring costs incurred in connection with any contamination and regulatory compliance. We use both underground storage tanks and above ground storage tanks to store petroleum products and waste at our travel centers. We must comply with environmental laws regarding tank construction, integrity testing, leak detection and monitoring, overfill and spill control, release reporting and financial assurance for corrective action in the event of a release. At some locations we must also comply with environmental laws relative to vapor recovery or discharges to water. Under the terms of our leases, we generally have agreed to indemnify HPT for any environmental liabilities related to travel centers that we lease from HPT and we are required to pay all environmental related expenses incurred in the operation of the travel centers.

From time to time we have received, and in the future likely will receive, notices of alleged violations of environmental laws or otherwise have become or will become aware of the need to undertake corrective actions to comply with environmental laws at our travel centers. Investigatory and remedial actions were, and regularly are, undertaken with respect to releases of hazardous substances at our travel centers. In some cases we received, and may receive, contributions to partially offset our environmental costs from insurers, from state funds established for environmental clean up associated with the sale of petroleum products or from indemnitors who agreed to fund certain environmental related costs at travel centers purchased from those indemnitors. To the extent we incur material amounts for environmental matters for which we do not receive insurance or other third party reimbursement or for which we have not previously recorded a reserve, our operating results may be materially adversely affected. In addition, to the extent we fail to comply with environmental laws and regulations, or we become subject to costs and requirements not similarly experienced by our competitors, our competitive position may be harmed.

At December 31, 2012, we had a gross accrued liability of \$10,355 for environmental matters as well as a receivable of \$2,718 for expected recoveries of certain of these estimated future expenditures, resulting in an estimated net amount of \$7,637 that we expect to need to fund from future cash flows. We do not have a reserve for unknown current or potential future environmental matters. Accrued liabilities related to environmental matters are recorded on an undiscounted basis because of the uncertainty associated with the timing of the related future payments. We do not precisely know the ultimate costs we will incur in connection with currently known or future potential environmental related violations, corrective actions, investigation and remediation; however, based on our current knowledge we do not expect that our net costs for such matters to be incurred at our travel centers, individually or in the aggregate, would be material to our financial condition or results of operations.

We have insurance of up to \$10,000 for certain environmental liabilities at certain of our travel centers that were known at the time the policies were issued, and up to \$40,000 for certain environmental liabilities not known by us at the time the policies were issued, subject, in each case, to certain limitations and deductibles. However, we can provide no assurance that we will be able to maintain similar environmental insurance coverage in the future on acceptable terms.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

17. Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

The following table sets forth the various amounts regarding environmental matters, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, recorded in our consolidated balance sheet as either current or noncurrent assets or liabilities.

| | December 31, | |
|--|--------------|----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 |
| Gross liability for environmental matters: | | |
| Included in other current liabilities | \$ 7,988 | \$ 5,447 |
| Included in other noncurrent liabilities | 2,367 | 3,495 |
| Total recorded liabilities | 10,355 | 8,942 |
| Less-expected recoveries of future expenditures, included in other noncurrent assets | (2,718) | (2,914) |
| Net estimated environmental costs to be funded by future operating cash flows | \$ 7,637 | \$ 6,028 |

While the costs of our environmental compliance in the past have not had a material adverse impact on us, it is impossible to predict the ultimate effect changing circumstances and changing environmental laws may have on us in the future or the ultimate outcome of matters currently pending. We cannot be certain that contamination presently unknown to us does not exist at our sites, or that material liability will not be imposed on us in the future. If we discover additional environmental problems, or if government agencies impose additional environmental requirements, increased environmental compliance or remediation expenditures may be required, which could have a material adverse effect on us. In addition, legislation and regulation regarding climate change, including greenhouse gas emissions, and other environmental matters may be adopted or administered and enforced differently in the future, which could require us to expend significant amounts. For instance, federal and state governmental requirements addressing emissions from trucks and other motor vehicles, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's gasoline and diesel sulfur control requirements that limit the concentration of sulfur in motor vehicle gasoline and diesel fuel, could negatively impact our business. Further, legislation and regulations that limit carbon emissions also may cause our energy costs at our travel centers to increase.

As of December 31, 2012, the estimated gross amounts of the cash outlays by year related to the matters for which we have accrued an environmental liability are \$7,988, \$2,147, \$155 and \$65 for the years 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, respectively. These cash expenditure amounts do not reflect any amounts for the expected recoveries as we cannot accurately predict the timing of those cash receipts. These estimated future gross cash disbursements are subject to change based on, among other things, changes in the underlying remediation activities and changes in the regulatory environment.

Legal Proceedings

In February 2012, Riverside County in the State of California performed its annual inspection of the underground storage tank systems at one of our sites and subsequently asserted that we were in violation of state laws and regulations governing the operation of those systems. We have demanded indemnification from third parties who we believe may be responsible for these alleged violations and

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

17. Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

we have reached an agreement in principle to resolve the County's claims and our claim for indemnification from third parties. We have recorded a loss with respect to this matter of \$26.

In May 2010, the California Attorney General filed a litigation on behalf of the California State Water Resources Control Board against various defendants, including us, HPT TA Properties Trust, PTP and Tejon Development Corporation, or Tejon, in the Superior Court of California for Alameda County seeking unspecified civil penalties and injunctive relief for alleged violations of underground storage tank laws and regulations at various facilities in Kern and Merced counties. On July 26, 2010, the California Attorney General voluntarily dismissed this litigation against us and the other named defendants, and on September 2, 2010, refiled its complaint against the same defendants in the Superior Court of California for Merced County, seeking unspecified civil penalties and injunctive relief. The parties are presently engaged in discovery and the court has not yet set a date for a trial. We have denied the material allegations in the complaint and asserted various affirmative defenses. We disagree with the Attorney General's allegations and we intend to defend this lawsuit if a settlement is not reached. Under the TA Lease and our expired lease agreement with Tejon for a site that has since been closed, we are liable to indemnify HPT TA Properties Trust and Tejon for any liabilities, costs and expenses they incur in connection with this litigation. We have accrued an estimated loss for this matter, and believe that the additional amount of loss we may realize, if any, upon the ultimate resolution of this matter in excess of the amount we have accrued will not be material.

Beginning in December 2006, a series of class action lawsuits was filed against numerous companies in the petroleum industry, including our predecessor and our subsidiaries, in U.S. district courts in over 20 states. Major petroleum refiners and retailers were named as defendants in one or more of these lawsuits. The plaintiffs in the lawsuits generally allege that they are retail purchasers who purchased motor fuel at temperatures greater than 60 degrees Fahrenheit at the time of sale. One theory alleges that the plaintiffs purchased smaller amounts of motor fuel than the amount for which defendants charged them because the defendants measured the amount of motor fuel they delivered by volumes which, at higher temperatures, contain less energy. A second theory alleges that fuel taxes are calculated in temperature adjusted 60 degree gallons and are collected by governmental agencies from suppliers and wholesalers, who are reimbursed in the amount of the tax by the defendant retailers before the fuel is sold to consumers. These "tax" cases allege that, when the fuel is subsequently sold to consumers at temperatures above 60 degrees, the retailers sell a greater volume of fuel than the amount on which they paid tax, and therefore reap unjust benefit because the customers pay more tax than the retailer pays. A third theory, advanced more recently in connection with plaintiffs' request for class certification, alleges that all purchasers of fuel at any temperature are harmed because the defendants do not use equipment that adjusts for temperature or disclose the temperature of fuel being sold, and thereby deprive customers of information they allegedly require to make an informed purchasing decision. We believe that there are substantial factual and legal defenses to the theories alleged in these so called "hot fuel" lawsuits. The "temperature" cases seek nonmonetary relief in the form of an order requiring the defendants to install devices that display the temperature of the fuel and/or temperature correcting equipment on their retail fuel pumps and monetary relief in the form of damages, but the plaintiffs have not quantified the damages they seek. The "tax" cases also seek monetary relief. Plaintiffs have proposed a formula (which we dispute) to measure these damages as the difference between the amount of fuel excise taxes paid by defendants and the amount collected by defendants on motor fuel sales. Plaintiffs have taken the position in filings with the Court that under

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

17. Commitments and Contingencies (Continued)

this approach, our damages for an eight-year period for one state would be approximately \$10,700. We deny liability and disagree with the plaintiffs' positions. All of these cases have been consolidated in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas pursuant to multi-district litigation procedures. On May 28, 2010, that Court ruled that, with respect to two cases originally filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas, it would grant plaintiffs' motion to certify a class of plaintiffs seeking injunctive relief (implementation of fuel temperature equipment and/or posting of notices regarding the effect of temperature on fuel). On January 19, 2012, the Court amended its prior ruling, and certified a class with respect to plaintiffs' claims for damages as well. A TA entity was named in one of those two Kansas cases, but the Court ruled that the named plaintiffs were not sufficient to represent a class as to TA. TA was thereafter dismissed from the Kansas case, and TA entities have been dismissed voluntarily from several other cases as well. Several defendants in the Kansas cases, including major petroleum refiners, have entered into multi-state settlements. Following a September 2012 trial against the remaining defendants in the Kansas cases, the jury returned a unanimous verdict in favor of those Kansas defendants, and the judge likewise ruled in the Kansas defendants' favor on the sole non-jury claim. Recently, the Court announced that it will remand three cases originally filed in federal district courts in California back to their original courts, where they may be combined for trial. A TA entity is named in one of these three California cases. The Court has not issued a decision on class certification or motions for summary judgment with respect to these or other remaining cases that have been consolidated in the multi-district litigation. We cannot estimate our ultimate exposure to loss or liability, if any, related to these lawsuits, but, the continued costs to defend these cases could be significant.

On April 6, 2009, five independent truck stop owners, who are plaintiffs in a purported class action suit against Comdata Network, Inc., or Comdata, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, filed a motion to amend their complaint to add us as a defendant, which was allowed on March 25, 2010. The amended complaint also added as defendants Ceridian Corporation, Pilot Travel Centers LLC and Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc. Comdata markets fuel cards which are used for payments by trucking companies at truck stops. The amended complaint alleged antitrust violations arising out of Comdata's contractual relationships with truck stops in connection with its fuel cards. The plaintiffs have sought unspecified damages and injunctive relief. On March 24, 2011, the Court dismissed the claims against TA in the amended complaint, but granted plaintiffs leave to file a new amended complaint. Four independent truck stop owners, as plaintiffs, filed a new amended complaint against us on April 21, 2011, repleading their claims. On May 6, 2011, we renewed our motion to dismiss the complaint with prejudice while discovery otherwise proceeded. The Court denied our renewed motion to dismiss on March 29, 2012, and we filed an answer to the complaint on April 30, 2012. The Court has set a schedule that provides that fact discovery shall end on May 24, 2013, and trial shall begin on August 18, 2014. We believe that there are substantial factual and legal defenses to the plaintiffs' claims against us. We cannot estimate our ultimate exposure to loss or liability, if any, related to this lawsuit, but the continued costs to defend this case could be significant.

In addition to the legal proceedings referenced above, we are routinely involved in various other legal and administrative proceedings, including tax audits incidental to the ordinary course of our business, none of which we expect, individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

18. Other Information

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| Operating expenses included the following: | | | |
| Repairs and maintenance expenses | \$ 38,893 | \$ 35,871 | \$ 33,643 |
| Advertising expenses | \$ 20,563 | \$ 18,768 | \$ 17,095 |
| Taxes other than payroll and income taxes | \$ 15,818 | \$ 16,252 | \$ 16,920 |

Interest expense consisted of the following:

| | Years Ended December 31, | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| HPT rent classified as interest expense | \$ 7,330 | \$ 7,390 | \$ 9,900 |
| Interest on deferred rent obligation to HPT | | | 14,100 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs | 352 | 403 | 285 |
| Other | 2,676 | 1,212 | 1,368 |
| Interest expense | \$ 10,358 | \$ 9,005 | \$ 25,653 |

19. Subsequent Event

In January 2013, we issued \$110,000 of 8.25% Senior Notes that mature on January 15, 2028. The Senior Notes are our senior unsecured obligations. Our net proceeds from this issuance were approximately \$105,200 after underwriters' discount and commission and other costs of the offering. No principal payments are due on the Senior Notes until maturity. We will pay interest on the Senior Notes quarterly in arrears on January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15 of each year, beginning on April 15, 2013. The Senior Notes are redeemable at any time and from time to time at our option in whole or in part on or after January 15, 2016. The redemption price will equal 100% of the principal amount of the Senior Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to, but not including, the redemption date.

20. Selected Quarterly Financial Data (unaudited)

The following is a summary of our unaudited quarterly results of operations for 2012 and 2011 (dollars in thousands, except per share amounts):

| | 2012 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter |
| Total revenues | \$ 1,994,869 | \$ 2,041,507 | \$ 2,034,153 | \$ 1,925,195 |
| Gross profit (excluding depreciation) | 243,352 | 294,223 | 288,306 | 260,119 |
| Income (loss) from operations | (11,309) | 32,017 | 20,933 | (171) |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (14,185) | \$ 29,852 | \$ 18,990 | \$ (2,459) |
| Net income (loss) per share: | | | | |
| Basic and diluted | \$ (0.49) | \$ 1.04 | \$ 0.66 | \$ (0.08) |

F-44

Table of Contents

TravelCenters of America LLC

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

(in thousands, except share and per share amounts)

20. Selected Quarterly Financial Data (unaudited) (Continued)

| | 2011 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | First Quarter | Second Quarter | Third Quarter | Fourth Quarter |
| Total revenues | \$ 1,782,114 | \$ 2,094,957 | \$ 2,087,285 | \$ 1,924,501 |
| Gross profit (excluding depreciation) | 229,483 | 276,376 | 281,206 | 251,753 |
| Income (loss) from operations | (14,229) | 24,153 | 22,600 | (124) |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (16,572) | \$ 21,828 | \$ 20,793 | \$ (2,475) |
| Net income (loss) per share: | | | | |
| Basic and diluted | \$ (0.92) | \$ 1.00 | \$ 0.74 | \$ (0.09) |

F-45

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) 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.

TRAVELCENTERS OF AMERICA LLC

March 18, 2013

By: /s/ ANDREW J. REBHOLZ

Name: Andrew J. Rebholz
 Title: *Executive Vice President,
 Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| Signature | Title | Date |
|--|--|----------------|
| <u>/s/ THOMAS M. O'BRIEN</u> Thomas M. O'Brien | Managing Director, President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) | March 18, 2013 |
| <u>/s/ ANDREW J. REBHOLZ</u> Andrew J. Rebholz | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer) | March 18, 2013 |
| <u>/s/ BARRY M. PORTNOY</u> Barry M. Portnoy | Managing Director | March 18, 2013 |
| <u>/s/ PATRICK F. DONELAN</u> Patrick F. Donelan | Independent Director | March 18, 2013 |
| <u>/s/ BARBARA D. GILMORE</u> Barbara D. Gilmore | Independent Director | March 18, 2013 |
| <u>/s/ ARTHUR G. KOUMANTZELIS</u> Arthur G. Koumantzellis | Independent Director | March 18, 2013 |

F-46