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Cabela's Inc.

Company Description: Cabela's Inc. is the world's largest direct marketer and retailer of hunting, fishing, camping and related outdoor merchandise. Founded in 1961, Cabela's publishes and delivers over 130 million retail catalogs annually and operates 31 large retail stores in the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, CAB operates World's Foremost Bank, through which it issues and manages the Cabela's CLUB Visa card and other loyally rewards programs. The company's headquarters are in Sidney, Nebraska.

Consumer- Retail April 18, 2011

# March Master Trust data and new Allen, TX store lead us to reiterate our BUY rating (CAB - \$25.72) BUY

#### **Key Points**

- Cabela's (CAB) reported March Master Trust data inline with our expectations.
- Gross charge-offs declined to 2.92% compared to 4.83% in February 2010 and 3.30% in February 2011. We are encouraged by the sequential and year-over-year improvements in gross charge-offs as 1Q:11 results were better than we expected.
- Delinquencies declined to 0.89% versus 1.60% in March 2010 and 1.04% in February 2011. We think the improving delinquencies bodes well for future charge-offs. Delinquencies are at the lowest levels since before the credit crisis.
- The principal payment rate was 42.21% versus 39.43% in March 2010 and 37.60% in February 2011.
- We think the credit card business is healthy at CAB and raised our estimates for 1Q:11 financial services revenue.
- Last week we visited the new Allen, TX store for its grand opening and visited with management. We are optimistic about the new store and think the ROIC will be impressive.
- We think ample growth opportunities exist for CAB to open both domestic and Canadian stores and think the return from these stores may be higher than our previous expectations.
- We are raising our estimates slightly due to the credit card business.
- We are reiterating our BUY rating and \$35 price target.

March Master Trust data was better than expected. CAB reported strong March Master Trust data with gross charge-offs and delinquencies below our expectations. Gross charge-offs declined to 2.92% versus 4.83% last year and 3.30% in February (see chart #1). Delinquencies declined to 0.89% compared to 1.60% in March of 2010 and 1.04% in February (see chart #2). We are encouraged by the declining delinquencies and think this bodes well for CAB's future charge-offs. The principal payment rate was 42.21% versus 39.43% last year and 37.60% in February. We raised our estimates for Financial Services revenue in 10:11 and think there is upside to our 2011 and 2012 if the strong trends continue. We think the credit card business is healthy and benefits CAB's retail operations immensely. We expect improving trends in charge-offs and think the credit card business will grow as more retail stores are opened.

# Financial Summary

Rev(mil)	2010A	2011E	2012E
Mar	\$559	\$570E	\$596E
Jun	\$526	\$561E	\$579E
Sep	\$643	\$671E	\$719E
Dec	\$934	\$959E	\$1,015E
FY	\$2,663	\$2,761E	\$2,908E
P/Sales	0.66x	0.64x	0.60x

<u>EPS</u>	2010A	2011E	2012E
Mar	\$0.29	\$0.27E	\$0.33E
Jun	\$0.28	\$0.28E	\$0.34E
Sep	\$0.31	\$0.40E	\$0.50E
Dec	\$0.86	\$0.96E	\$1.13E
FY P/E	\$1.75 14.7x	\$1.91E 13.5x	\$2.32E 11.1x

Price:	\$25.72
52-Week Range:	\$32.37-\$22.51
Target:	\$35.00
Rating:	BUY
Shares Outstanding:	68.4 mil
Mkt. Capitalization:	\$1,759 mil
Ave. Volume:	583,100
Instit. Ownership:	66%
BV / Share:	\$15.05
Debt / Tot. Cap.:	74%
Est. LT EPS Growth:	15%



The new store in Allen, TX has potential to outperform most other stores. Last week we attended the grand opening of Cabela's newest store in Allen, TX. We think the demographics of the area are superb with nearby SuperTarget, Best Buy, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dillard's, Macy's and numerous other retailers. With this development Cabela's is one of the last sites completed versus a typical first site developed. The main competitors are a nearby Academy Sports and the Dick's Sporting Goods in the same shopping complex. We think the immediate retail environment is advantageous to Cabela's with a mix of nearby upscale, mid-scale and big box retailers. Demographically the Allen area (a northern suburb of Dallas) is ideal with a strong mix of affluent to middle-class population. The Allen store is approximately 107,000 square feet and has a prominent location off of 175. CAB used much of its design elements from its other smaller prototype stores in the Allen unit, but added approximately 20,000 square feet. The useful selling feet in the store is greatly improved from the prior models due to innovative design elements such as raised taxidermy displays (see Pictures #1 and #2), a smaller conservation mountain with built-in aquarium (Picture #3) and smaller back of the house operations. The store still has the entire ambiance of a typical Cabela's, but is much more efficient. Additionally, other construction measures were taken which helped improve functionality and reduce costs such as lowering the ceiling and wiring for more audio/visual displays that can boost the customers experience and improve sales.

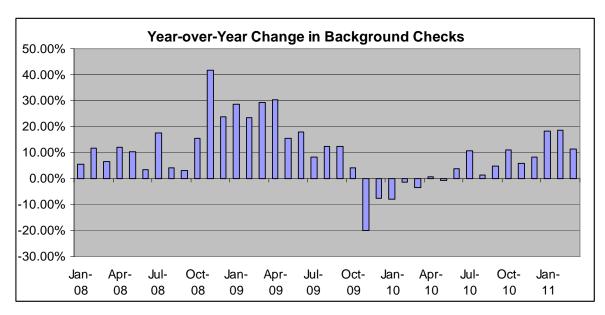
We think the 100,000 square foot prototype will have attractive unit economics. CAB paid approximately \$20mm for the store net of incentives from the city, which we think is cheap given the existing retail environment. We think the store can produce sales per square foot of \$425 or more, or total annual revenue of +\$45mm. We project four-wall EBITDA margins of approximately 18% producing a cash-on-cash return exceeding 40%. This compares quite favorably to the old, large-box stores and the new 80,000 square foot prototype.. The current system-wide average is sales per square foot of approximately \$315 and four-wall EBITDA margins in the low-to-mid teens. Management will host an Analyst/Investor Day at the Allen, TX store next month which we think will help investors see the potential behind the new store model.

Square Feet	130,000 -	195,000	80,000	100,000
Net Cost (\$k's)	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$14,000	\$20,000
Revenue	\$39,000	\$58,500	\$26,000	\$42,500
EBITDA	\$5,070	\$7,605	\$4,420	\$7,650
Return on Investment	20.28%	15.21%	31.57%	38.25%

We think CAB has ample growth opportunities. CAB will open two additional stores in 2011: Springfield Oregon in a few weeks and Edmonton Alberta later in the fall. We project approximately 5% growth in square feet this year and 6.5% next year with four new stores opening (two stores have been formally announced for 2012, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Wichita, Kansas). CAB has put an emphasis on growth in Canada with two current new stores announced to open compared to the one current store in Winnipeg, Manitoba. We think Canada presents a great growth opportunity for the company. However, we think some potential hurdles exist, primarily the lack of a credit card in Canada. We think management is working diligently to resolve this issue and hope it is fixed before the company begins more growth in the country. Another potential for growth in Canada is relocating the Winnipeg store. Access to the store and parking are less than ideal at the current location, but the company produces very strong results with a dominant market share in the area. We think it is likely the store will be relocated, but think it may not happen until 2013. The Winnipeg market is a great opportunity with over 700,000 people and many outdoorsmen.

NICS data and improving rural economy point to better results. FBI background checks for firearm purchases gained momentum in 1Q:11 after a surprisingly strong 2010. Background checks increased approximately 16% year-over-year in 1Q:11. We think the demand for firearms has exceeded most expectations and that CAB has produced results better than the NICS data. We think the shootings in Arizona in January probably boosted demand for firearms as well. We think that the typical CAB customer will benefit from an improving rural economy that is being driven by increasing farmer income. Many Cabela's stores are located in more rural locations and we think the direct business benefits from this trend as well. With the opening of the new TX and the soon to open OR stores, Texas still has the dominant exposure for CAB as far as total selling square feet in one state at approximately 11.5%. The next biggest states are Minnesota, Nebraska, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, all states that we think will benefit from growing farmer income.



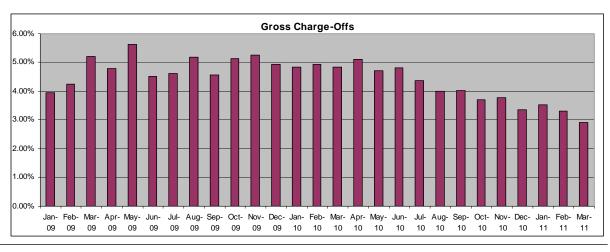


We are adjusted our estimates slightly higher to reflect improving credit card business and strong new openings. We tweaked our estimates slightly higher due to positive retail and credit card trends and an improved outlook for the new stores. We are still conservative in our expectations for the positive financial impact of the new stores and think there may be upside to our estimates. We adjusted our total revenue estimates higher by less than \$10mm for both 2011 and 2012 and our EPS estimates changed only slightly, with 1Q:11 EPS rising to \$0.27 versus our prior \$0.26 estimate and our 2012 EPS rising to \$2.32 versus our prior \$2.31 estimate.

#### **INVESTMENT THESIS**

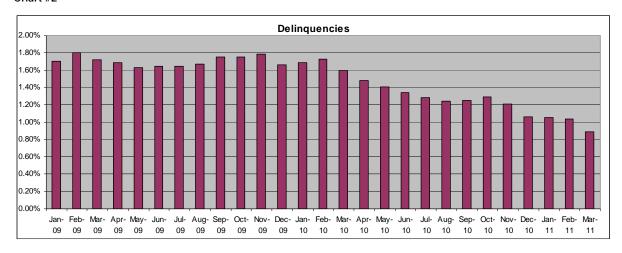
We are reiterating our BUY rating and \$35 price target. We think CAB's business is healthy with expectations for strong same-store sales, improving new unit growth and a healthy credit card business. We think the company has proven the three biggest "bear" arguments against the company wrong, namely, the credit card business will be a drag on results, the stores don't make any money and gun sales will decline precipitously and impede results. We like the new, smaller-prototype stores and the returns on their construction. Although each store is different, we are encouraged by recent site selection and initial results. With a loyal customer, improving trends and ample growth opportunities, we are reiterating our BUY rating. We derive our \$35 price target by applying a 15x multiple to our new 2012 EPS estimate of \$2.32. Our methodology is unchanged. Trading at 11.1x our new 2012 earnings estimate, we think the shares are undervalued given that CAB's sporting goods peers currently trade at approximately 16x forward earnings, other large-box retailers trade at about 16x and credit card companies trade at 10x (see charts 3-5).

Chart #1





# Chart #2



# Chart #3

<u>Ticker</u>	Company	(2012)	<u>P/E</u>
DKS	DICK'S SPORTING GOODS	INC	18.3
HIBB	HIBBETT SPORTS INC		17.6
BGFV	BIG 5 SPORTING GOODS C	ORP	10.1
GOLF	GOLFSMITH INTERNATIO	NAL HOLDINGS	16.3
	Average		<i>15.6</i>

Source: First Call and Feltl and Company research

# Chart #4

<u>Ticker</u>	Company	(2012)	<u>P/E</u>
BBBY	BED BATH & BEYOND IN	1C	13.8
BBY	BEST BUY INCORPORATI	ED	7.9
COST	COSTCO WHOLESALE CO	ORP	20.2
ETH	ETHAN ALLEN INTERIO	RS INC	24.0
HD	HOME DEPOT INC		14.2
LOW	LOWE'S COMPANIES INC		13.6
PETM	PETSMART INC		15.3
SPLS	STAPLES INC		11.4
TSCO	TRACTOR SUPPLY COMP	ANY	21.0
	Average		<i>15.7</i>

Source: First Call and Feltl and Company research

# Chart #5

Ticker	Company (2012)	<u>P/E</u>
ADS	ALLIANCE DATA SYSTEMS CORP	10.6
AXP	AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY	11.3
COF	CAPITAL ONE FINANCIAL CORP.	9.1
DFS	DISCOVER FINANCIAL SERVICES	9.8
	Average	10.2

Source: First Call and Feltl and Company research



# Picture #1

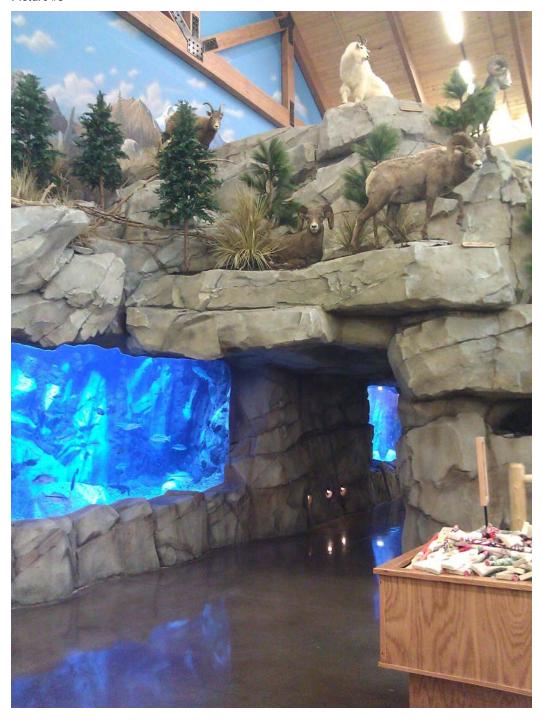


Picture #2





Picture #3





Cabela's Incorporated. Income Statemen	t
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Cabela's incorporated, income S																
	Fiscal Year	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10	Fiscal Year	Mar-11	Jun-11	Sep-11	Dec-11	Fiscal Year	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12	Dec-12	Fiscal Year
\$ in thousands except per share amounts	2009A	Q1 A	Q2 A	Q3 A	Q4 A	2010A	Q1 E	Q2 E	Q3 E	Q4 E	2011E	Q1 E	Q2 E	Q3 E	Q4 E	2012E
Retail	1,388,991	271,292	293,950	368,704	478,769	1,412,715	293,859	326,204	394,282	512,965	1,527,311	318,139	343,044	442,629	570,281	1,674,093
Direct	1,058,644	222,744	171,541	218,559	386,927	999,771	220,517	178,746	218,450	385,379	1,003,091	219,634	178,388	216,047	381,911	995,980
Merchandise revenue	2,447,635	494,036	465,491	587,263	865,696	2,412,486	514,376	504,950	612,732	898,344	2,530,402	537,773	521,432	658,676	952,192	2,670,073
% change	2.8%	-1.4%	-7.1%	2.3%	-0.7%	-1.4%	4.1%	8.5%	4.3%	3.8%	4.9%	4.5%	3.3%	7.5%	6.0%	5.5%
Financial services revenue	171,414	59,984	56,488	53,443	57,760	227,675	52,214	52,341	55,807	58,176	218,538	54,759	54,147	56,866	59,216	224,987
% change	7.8%	77.0%	28.0%	10.9%	27.8%	32.8%	-13.0%	-7.3%	4.4%	0.7%	-4.0%	4.9%	3.4%	1.9%	1.8%	3.0%
Other revenue	13,191	5,590	3,991	2,545	10,955	23,081	3,400	3,500	2,600	2,600	12,100	3,500	3,600	3,000	3,100	13,200
% change	0.7%	17.2%	0.7%	32.0%	332.5%	75.0%	-39.2%	-12.3%	2.2%	-76.3%	-47.6%	2.9%	2.9%	15.4%	19.2%	9.1%
Total revenue	2,632,240	559,610	525,970	643,251	934,411	2,663,242	569,990	560,791	671,139	959,120	2,761,040	596,032	579,179	718,542	1,014,507	2,908,260
% change	3.1%	3.7%	-4.2%	3.0%	1.7%	1.2%	1.9%	6.6%	4.3%	2.6%	3.7%	4.6%	3.3%	7.1%	5.8%	5.3%
Cost of sales:																
Merchandise	1,602,621	329,435	299,649	384,493	561,872	1,575,449	329,715	321,148	397,663	571,347	1,619,873	342,562	329,076	420,894	598,929	1,691,460
% of merchandise sales	65.5%	66.7%	64.4%	65.5%	64.9%	65.3%	64.1%	63.6%	64.9%	63.6%	64.0%	63.7%	63.1%	63.9%	62.9%	63.3%
Total cost of sales	1,602,621	329,435	299,649	384,493	561,872	1,575,449	329,715	321,148	397,663	571,347	1,619,873	342,562	329,076	420,894	598,929	1,691,460
Gross Profit	1,029,619	230,175	226,321	258,758	372,539	1,087,793	240,275	239,643	273,476	387,773	1,141,167	253,471	250,103	297,648	415,579	1,216,800
Selling, distribution and administrative	870,147	214,236	193,818	219,120	268,231	895,405	208,103	205,586	227,516	281,981	923,187	213,916	209,721	239,490	289,642	952,768
% of revenue	33.1%	38.3%	36.8%	34.1%	28.7%	33.6%	36.5%	36.7%	33.9%	29.4%	33.4%	35.9%	36.2%	33.3%	28.6%	32.8%
Operating income	159,472	15,939	32,503	39,638	104,308	192,388	32,172	34,057	45,960	105,792	217,980	39,555	40,382	58,158	125,937	264,032
Interest income (expense)	(23,109)	(5,454)	(5,671)	(6,669)	(9,648)	(27,442)	(5,650)	(5,550)	(5,350)	(5,300)	(21,850)	(5,250)	(5,300)	(5,200)	(5,150)	(20,900)
Other income, net	(59,839)	1,738	(48)	(1,176)	1,220	1,734	1,700	1,750	1,850	1,900	7,200	1,500	1,850	1,500	1,800	6,650
Income before income taxes	76,524	12,223	26,784	31,793	95,880	166,680	28,222	30,257	42,460	102,392	203,330	35,805	36,932	54,458	122,587	249,782
Income tax expense	26,907	4,132	8,760	12,051	29,578	54,521	9,595	10,287	14,436	34,813	69,132	12,174	12,557	18,516	41,680	84,926
Tax rate %	35.2%	33.8%	32.7%	37.9%	30.8%	32.7%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%	34.0%
Net income	88,821	20,006	19,387	21,603	59,937	120,933	18,626	19,970	28,023	67,579	134,198	23,631	24,375	35,942	80,907	164,856
EPS	1.32	0.29	0.28	0.31	0.86	1.75	0.27	0.28	0.40	0.96	1.91	0.33	0.34	0.50	1.13	2.32
EPS growth rate	9.8%	216.8%	71.2%	11.4%	11.6%	32.9%	-8.5%	0.9%	26.8%	11.4%	9.2%	25.1%	20.7%	26.5%	18.0%	21.2%
Diluted shares	67,453	68,609	68,798	68,738	69,637	69,087	69,800	70,200	70,300	70,500	70,200	70,800	71,000	71,250	71,500	71,138
Same-store sales	3.5%	-1.7%	-4.6%	2.4%	7.3%	0.9%	7.5%	7.2%	2.3%	-0.4%	4.2%	-0.3%	-0.3%	4.0%	4.7%	2.0%
Stores	30	30	31	31	31	31	32	33	33	34	34	36	36	37	38	38
EBITDA	229,420	50,939	49,503	55,638	121,308	277,388	49,372	51,357	62,360	122,892	285,980	57,255	58,282	76,058	144,437	336,032



# **Analyst Certification**

I, Mark E. Smith, certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject company and its securities. I also certify that I have not been, am not, and will not be receiving direct or indirect compensation related to the specific recommendations expressed in this report.

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There is not any actual material conflict of interest that either the analyst or Feltl and Company is aware of.

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**Strong Buy:** The stock is expected to have total return potential of at least 30%. Catalysts exist to generate higher valuations, and positions should be initiated at current levels.

**Buy:** The stock is expected to have total return potential of at least 15%. Near term catalysts may not exist and the common stock needs further time to develop. Investors requiring time to build positions may consider current levels attractive.

**Hold:** The stock is expected to have total return potential of less than 15%. Fundamental events are not present to make it either a Buy or a Sell. The stock is an acceptable longer-term holding.

**Sell**: Expect a negative total return. Current positions may be used as a source of funds.



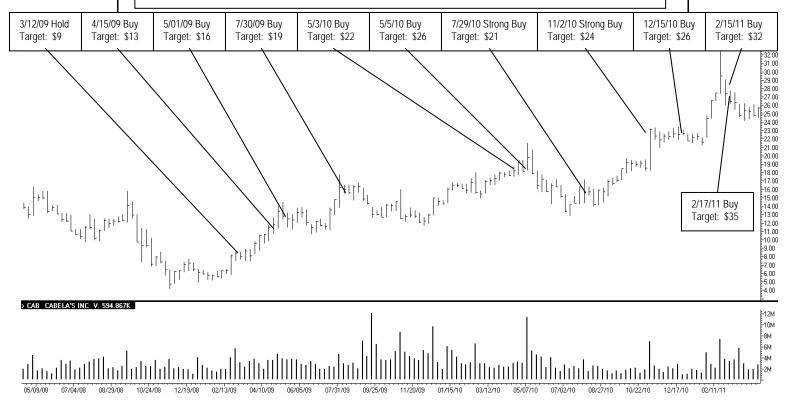
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Ratings	Distribution	for Feltl and	Company
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--- Investment Banking -----

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	Number of	Percent	Number of	Percent of
Rating	Stocks	of Total	Stocks	Rating category
SB/Buy	35	66%	0	0%
Hold	18	34%	0	0%
Sell	0	0%	0	0%
	53	100%	0	0%

The above represents our ratings distribution on the stocks in the Feltl and Company research universe, together with the number in (and percentage of) each category for which Feltl and Company provided investment-banking services in the previous twelve months.



Date	Nature of Report	Rating	Price Target
03/12/09	Initiation @ \$8.40	Hold	\$9.00
04/15/09	Upgrade to BUY, Raise Price Target	Buy	\$13.00
05/01/09	Raise Price Target	Buy	\$16.00
07/30/09	Raise Price Target	Buy	\$19.00
05/03/10	Raise Price Target	Buy	\$22.00
05/05/10	Raise Price Target	Buy	\$26.00
07/29/10	Upgrade to STRONG BUY, Lower Price Target	Strong Buy	\$21.00
11/02/10	Raise Price Target to \$24	Strong Buy	\$24.00
12/15/10	Raise Price Target to \$26, Lower rating to BUY	Buy	\$26.00
02/15/11	Raise Price Target to \$32	Buy	\$32.00
02/17/11	Raise Price Target to \$35	Buy	\$35.00

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#### Valuation and Price Target Methodology:

We derive our \$35.00 price target by applying a 15x multiple to our 2012 EPS estimate of \$2.32.

## Risks to Achievement of Estimates and Price Target:

- Cabela's business may be impacted by consumers' discretionary spending and confidence. Macroeconomic factors such as increasing
  gasoline prices, unemployment and generally tough economic times may negatively impact consumers' retail spending. Changing consumer
  outdoor trends could also have a negative impact on sales.
- Severe weather may slow sales for CAB as this could have a negative impact on outdoor activities.
- Volatile commodity prices may affect earnings. Paper is a large component of catalog costs in the direct merchandise business.
- There is no guarantee that Cabela's stores will be successful in new markets. Cabela's has a small number of current units with only 29 stores. The company's acquisition of S.I.R in Canada may not produce similar results and growth in foreign markets may produce results below stores opened in the U.S.
- The retail business is extremely competitive and competition for customers through lower prices may negatively impact CAB's returns. Discounted prices at CAB's largest competitors may cause the company to lower prices to maintain its market share.
- CAB's banking subsidiary operates in a highly regulated industry. Loss of the company's charter, changes in capital requirements or any other regulatory changes could have a negative impact on results.
- CAB may experience limited availability of financing for the financial services business as experienced in late 2008 and 2009 with the freezing of the asset-backed lending market.
- The credit card business is likely to experience fluctuations in charge-offs due to bad debt. Consumers' inability to pay off credit card debts could impede results in the financial services business.
- The company is dependant on its vendors. Any disruption in the supply chain could have a negative impact on results. Geo-political disruptions could impact the supply chain as many of CAB's vendors operate in foreign markets.
- CAB's business is highly seasonal with high revenue and the majority of earnings in the fourth calendar quarter. If fourth quarter results were somehow impeded it could have a large impact on revenue and earnings.
- Readers should recognize that the risks noted here do not represent a comprehensive list of all risk factors or potential issues, nor all factors that may preclude achievement of our forecast or price target. Additional risk factors exist and are outlined in the Company's SEC filings

#### Other Disclosures:

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