

United States Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 10-K**

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
**For the fiscal year ended May 1, 2021**

or

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 1-14170

**NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State of incorporation)

**59-2605822**

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**8100 SW Tenth Street, Suite 4000, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33324**

(Address of principal executive offices including zip code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (954) 581-0922**

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Trading Symbol(s)</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share	FIZZ	The NASDAQ Global Select Market

**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 Exchange Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months 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 every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company," and "emerging growth company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.: Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company  Emerging growth company

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management's assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

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 common stock held by non-affiliates of Registrant computed by reference to the closing sale price of \$39.15 on October 31, 2020 was approximately \$912 million.

The number of shares of Registrant's common stock outstanding as of June 29, 2021 was 93,307,746.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the 2021 Annual Meeting of Shareholders are incorporated by reference in Part III of this report.



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## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

#### GENERAL

National Beverage Corp. innovatively refreshes America with a distinctive portfolio of sparkling waters, juices, energy drinks and, to a lesser extent, carbonated soft drinks. We believe our creative product designs, innovative packaging and imaginative flavors, along with our corporate culture and philosophy, make National Beverage unique as a stand-alone entity in the beverage industry.

Points of differentiation include the following:

*Healthy Transformation* – We focus on developing and delighting consumers with healthier beverages in response to the global shift in consumer buying habits and lifestyles. We are committed to tailoring the variety and types of beverages in our portfolio to satisfy the preferences of a diverse mix of consumers including ‘crossover consumers’ – a growing group desiring a healthier alternative to artificially sweetened or high-calorie beverages.

*Creative Innovations* – Building on a rich tradition of flavor and brand innovation with more than a 130-year history of development with iconic brands such as Shasta® and Faygo®, we have extended our flavor and essence leadership and technical expertise to the sparkling water category. Proprietary flavors and our naturally-essenced beverages are developed and tested in-house and made commercially available only after extensive concept and sensory evaluation. Our variety of distinctive flavors provides us a unique advantage with today’s consumers who demand variety and refreshing beverage alternatives.

*Innovation Ethic* – We believe that innovative marketing, packaging and consumer engagement is more effective in today’s marketplace than traditional higher-cost national advertising. In addition to our cost-effective social media platforms, we utilize regionally-focused marketing programs and in-store “brand ambassadors” to interact with and obtain feedback from our consumers. We also believe the design of our packages and the overall optical effect of their placement on the shelf (“shelf marketing”) has become more important as millennials and younger generations become increasingly influential consumers, and are now influencing baby boomers and older generations.



*Creative Dynamics* – In a beverage industry dominated by the “cola giants”, we pride ourselves on being able to respond faster and more creatively to consumer trends than competitors burdened by legacy production and distribution complexity and costs. The ability to identify consumer trends and create new market-leading concepts define our new product development model. Speed to market with the appropriate concept, unique flavor creation and trend-forward ‘better-for-you’ ingredients continues to be our goal. Internal development teams are responsible for concept creation, packaging and design, which allow for rapid ‘go to market’ timing and reduced development costs.

Presently, our primary market focus is the United States and Canada. Certain of our products are also distributed on a limited basis in other countries and options to expand distribution to other regions are being considered.

National Beverage Corp. is incorporated in Delaware and began trading as a public company on the NASDAQ Stock Market in 1991. In this report, the terms “we,” “us,” “our,” “Company” and “National Beverage” mean National Beverage Corp. and its subsidiaries unless indicated otherwise.

## **BRANDS**

Our brands consist of beverages geared to the active and health-conscious consumer (“Power+ Brands”) including sparkling waters, energy drinks, and juices. Our portfolio of Power+ Brands includes LaCroix®, LaCroix Cúrate®, and LaCroix NiCola® sparkling water products; Clear Fruit®; Rip It® energy drinks and shots; and Everfresh®, Everfresh Premier Varietals™ and Mr. Pure® 100% juice and juice-based products. Additionally, we produce and distribute carbonated soft drinks (“CSDs”) including Shasta and Faygo, iconic brands whose consumer loyalty spans more than 130 years.

## Power+ Brands –

### LaCroix



LaCroix® Sparkling Water, our most significant brand, has uniquely redefined the Sparkling Water category that is rapidly becoming the alternative to traditional carbonated soda. With *zero* calories, *zero* sweeteners and *zero* sodium, LaCroix leads the premium domestic sparkling water category. Naturally essenced, LaCroix has gained the support of national retailers in multiple channels, including mass-merchandisers, club stores, drug stores, mainstream supermarkets and natural and specialty food retailers.

In Fiscal year 2020, LaCroix launched three new naturally-essenced flavors of LaCroix: Hi-Biscuit is a unique flavor that adds the delicate essence of the hibiscus flower to sparkling water, the enticing savor of LimonCello instantly transports fans to the Italian Riviera and the refreshing taste of Pastèque captures the lusciousness of a sweet picnic watermelon.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2021, LaCroix launched its innovative new trio of Beach Plum, Black Razzberry and Guava São Paulo. Beach Plum excites the imagination and inspires dreams of summer with the delectable coolness of the luscious fruit native to the east coast of the U.S.; the sweet twist of Black Razzberry makes taste buds sing with decadent, smooth and irresistible fruit flavor; and consumers savor the sweet tropical delicacy and vibrant essence of Guava São Paulo.

These innovative new varieties are part of the LaCroix family of 30 refreshingly *innocent* flavors.

LaCroix's dynamic 'theme' LaCroix Cúrate® ('Cure Yourself') celebrates French sophistication with Spanish zest and bold flavor pairings. Cúrate naturally refreshes in tall, sleek 12 oz. consumer-friendly cans. Eloquent graphics, robust aroma, naturally 'essenced' and premium-priced, Cúrate is an attractive alternative for today's consumers.



NiCola® by LaCroix, an innovative sparkling water, captures the 'crossover' cola consumers with its '*innocent*' effect of no calories, sodium, sweetener or any other ingredient that the health-conscious consumer avoids. NiCola is designed for those cola and diet cola consumers within the \$83 billion U.S. carbonated soft drink market that are looking to continue to quench their cola-craving taste without negative health consequences. Our LaCroix NiCola theme includes traditional La Cola along with Coconut Cola, Cubana (Mojito), and Coffea Exotica (Sumatra coffee and cola).

Additional LaCroix themes are in development that feature unique packaging and ground-breaking flavor concepts designed to capitalize on LaCroix brand loyalty and growth of the sparkling water category.

## Everfresh and Mr. Pure



Everfresh® and Mr. Pure® 100% juice and juice drinks are available in a variety of flavors, from such classics as Orange, Cranberry and flavored lemonades to exotics that include Premium Papaya, Pineapple Mango, Peach Watermelon and Island Punch. The brands' signature package is a hot-filled, 16 oz. glass bottle designed for single-serve consumption.

Everfresh Premier Varietals™, a unique theme from Everfresh, is positioned as a stand-alone brand for display in the produce section of supermarkets. Everfresh Premier Varietals is a premium line of apple juice derived from a variety of apples specific to the taste of the varietal, such as Granny Smith, McIntosh, Honey Crisp, Golden Delicious, Fuji and Pink Lady.

## Clear Fruit

Clear Fruit is a crisp, clear, non-carbonated water beverage enhanced with fruit flavors. Clear Fruit is available in 14 delicious flavors, including consumer favorites Cherry Blast, Strawberry Watermelon, and Fruit Punch. Clear Fruit is available in 20-ounce and 16.9-ounce bottles with consumer-favored sports caps.



## Rip It



RIP IT® Energy Fuel is “Real Energy for Real People” with 14 unique flavors and six sugar-free options. Building on the flavor tradition of original Rip It, a 2 oz. sugar-free shot version in eight flavors is marketed in displayable package configurations. RIP IT proudly supports military and first responder heroes at home and abroad with such energetic flavors as Tribute, Citrus X, Cherry Lime and Power.

## Carbonated Soft Drinks –



Shasta® has been recognized as a bottling industry pioneer and innovator for more than 130 years. Shasta features multiple flavors and has earned consumer loyalty by delivering value and convenience with such unique tastes as Raspberry Crème, Tiki Punch, and California Dreamin’.

With more than 110 years of brand history, Faygo® products include numerous unique flavors such as Red Pop®, Moon Mist®, and Rock’n’Rye®. Faygo is celebrated in the Midwest as "The One True Pop."

Many of our carbonated soft drink brands enjoy a regional identification that fosters long-term consumer loyalty and makes them more competitive as a consumer choice. In addition, products produced locally often generate retailer-sponsored promotional activities and receive media exposure through community activities rather than costly national advertising.

In recent years, we reformulated many of our brands to reduce caloric content while still preserving their time-tested flavor profiles. Our brands, optically and ingredient-wise, are continually evolving. We always strive to make all our drinks healthier while maintaining their iconic taste profiles.



## PRODUCTION



Our philosophy emphasizes vertical integration; our production model integrates the procurement of raw materials and crafting flavors and concentrates with the production of finished products. Our twelve strategically-located production facilities are near major metropolitan markets across the continental United States. The locations of our facilities enable us to efficiently produce and distribute beverages to substantially all geographic markets in the United States, including the top 25 metropolitan statistical areas. Each facility is generally equipped to produce both canned and bottled beverage products in a variety of package sizes.

We believe the innovative and controlled vertical integration of our production facilities provides an advantage over certain of our competitors that rely on independent third-party bottlers to manufacture and market their products. Since we control all national production, distribution and marketing of our brands, we believe we can more effectively manage quality control and consumer appeal while responding quickly to changing market conditions.

We craft a substantial portion of our flavors and concentrates. By controlling our own formulas throughout our bottling network, we are able to produce beverages in accordance with uniform quality standards while innovating flavors to meet changing consumer preferences. We believe the combination of a Company-owned bottling network, together with uniform standards for packaging, formulations and customer service, provides us with a strategic advantage in servicing national retailers and mass-merchandisers. We also maintain research and development laboratories at multiple locations. These laboratories continually test products for compliance with our strict quality control standards as well as conduct research for new products and flavors.



## DISTRIBUTION

To service a diverse customer base that includes numerous national retailers, as well as thousands of smaller “up-and-down-the-street” accounts, we utilize a hybrid distribution system to deliver our products through three primary distribution channels: take-home, convenience and food-service.

The take-home distribution channel consists of national and regional grocery stores, club stores, mass-merchandisers, wholesalers, e-commerce stores, drug stores and dollar stores. We distribute our products to this channel primarily through the warehouse distribution system and, to a lesser extent, the direct-store delivery system.

Warehouse distribution system products are shipped from our production facilities to the retailer’s centralized distribution centers and then distributed by the retailer to each of its store locations with other goods. This method allows our retail partners to further maximize their assets by utilizing their ability to pick-up product at our warehouses, thus lowering their/our product costs. Products sold through the direct-store delivery system are distributed directly to the customer’s retail outlets by our direct-store delivery fleet and by independent distributors.



We distribute our products to the convenience channel through our own direct-store delivery fleet and those of independent distributors. The convenience channel consists of convenience stores, gas stations and other smaller “up-and-down-the-street” accounts. Because of the higher retail prices and margins that typically prevail, we have developed packaging and graphics specifically targeted to this market.

Our food-service division distributes products to independent, specialized distributors who sell to hospitals, schools, military bases, airlines, hotels and food-service wholesalers. Also, our Company-owned direct-store delivery fleet distributes products to select schools and food-service locations.

Our take-home, convenience and food-service operations use vending machines and glass-door coolers as marketing and promotional tools for our brands. We provide vending machines and coolers on a placement or purchase basis to our customers. We believe vending and cooler equipment expands on-site visual trial, thereby increasing sales and enhancing brand awareness.

## SALES AND MARKETING



We sell and market our products through an internal sales force as well as specialized broker networks. Our sales force is organized to serve a specific market, focusing on one or more geographic territories, distribution channels or product lines. We believe this focus allows our sales group to provide high level, responsive service and support to our customers and markets.

Our marketing emphasizes programs designed to reach consumers directly through innovative digital marketing, digital social marketing, social media engagement, sponsorships and creative content. We are focused on increasing our digital presence and capabilities to further enhance the consumer experience across our brands. We may retain agencies to assist with social media content creative and platform selection for our brands.

Additionally, we maintain and enhance consumer brand recognition and loyalty through a combination of participation in regional events, special event marketing, endorsements, consumer coupon distribution and product sampling. We also offer numerous promotional programs to retail customers, including cooperative advertising support, 'BrandED' ambassadors, in-store promotional activities and other incentives. These elements allow marketing and other consumer programs to be tailored to meet local and regional demographics.

## RAW MATERIALS

Our centralized procurement group maintains relationships with numerous suppliers of ingredients and packaging. By consolidating the purchasing function for our production facilities, we believe we are able to procure more competitive arrangements with our suppliers, thereby enhancing our ability to compete as an efficient producer of beverages.

The products we produce and sell are made from various materials including aluminum cans, glass and plastic bottles, water, carbon dioxide, juice and flavor concentrates, sweeteners, cartons and closures. We craft a substantial portion of our flavors and concentrates while purchasing the remaining raw materials from multiple suppliers.



Substantially all of the materials and ingredients we purchase are presently available from several suppliers, although strikes, weather conditions, utility shortages, governmental control or regulations, national emergencies, quality, price or supply fluctuations or other events outside our control could adversely affect the supply of specific materials. A significant portion of our raw material purchases, including aluminum cans, plastic bottles, high fructose corn syrup, corrugated packaging and juice concentrates, are derived from commodities. Therefore, pricing and availability tend to fluctuate based upon worldwide commodity market conditions. In certain cases, we may elect to enter into multi-year agreements for the supply of these materials with one or more suppliers, the terms of which may include variable or fixed pricing, minimum purchase quantities and/or the requirement to purchase all supplies for specified locations. Additionally, we use derivative financial instruments to partially mitigate our exposure to changes in certain raw material costs.

## SEASONALITY



Our operating results are affected by numerous factors, including fluctuations in costs of raw materials, holiday and seasonal programming and weather conditions. Beverage sales are seasonal with higher volume realized during summer months when outdoor activities are more prevalent.

## COMPETITION

While LaCroix Sparkling Water is the brand of choice as the number one premium domestic sparkling water throughout the United States, the beverage industry is highly competitive and our competitive position may vary by market area. Our products compete with many varieties of liquid refreshment, including water products, soft drinks, juices, fruit drinks, energy drinks and sports drinks, as well as powdered drinks, coffees, teas, dairy-based drinks, functional beverages and various other nonalcoholic beverages. We compete with bottlers and distributors of national, regional and private label products. Several competitors, including those that dominate the beverage industry, such as Nestlé S.A., PepsiCo and The Coca-Cola Company, have greater financial resources than we have and aggressive promotion of their products may adversely affect sales of our brands.

Principal methods of competition in the beverage industry are price and promotional activity, advertising and marketing programs, point-of-sale merchandising, retail space management, customer service, product differentiation, packaging innovations and distribution methods. We believe our Company differentiates itself through novel innovation, key brand recognition, focused social media, innovative flavor variety, attractive packaging, efficient distribution methods, and, for some product lines, value pricing.



## TRADEMARKS



We own numerous trademarks for our brands that are significant to our business. We intend to continue to maintain all registrations of our significant trademarks and use the trademarks in the operation of our businesses.

## GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION

The production, distribution and sale of our products in the United States are subject to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994; the Occupational Safety and Health Act; various environmental statutes; and various other federal, state and local statutes regulating the production, transportation, sale, safety, advertising, labeling and ingredients of such products. We believe that we are in compliance, in all material respects, with such existing legislation.

Certain states and localities require a deposit or tax on the sale of certain beverages. These requirements vary by each jurisdiction. Similar legislation has been or may be proposed in other states or localities or by Congress. We are unable to predict whether such legislation will be enacted but believe its enactment would not have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

All of our facilities in the United States are subject to federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations. Compliance with these provisions has not had any material adverse effect on our financial or competitive position. We believe our current practices and procedures for the control and disposition of toxic or hazardous substances comply in all material respects with applicable law.

## HUMAN CAPITAL

As of May 1, 2021, we employed approximately 1,550 people, of which 368 are covered by collective bargaining agreements. These collective bargaining agreements generally address working conditions, as well as wage rates and benefits, and expire over varying terms over the next several years. We believe these agreements can be renegotiated on terms satisfactory to us as they expire and we believe we maintain good relationships with our employees and their representative organizations.

We support a culture of diversity and inclusion that mirrors the markets we serve. We take a comprehensive view of diversity and inclusion across different races, ethnicities, religions and expressions of gender and sexual identity. Approximately 56 percent and 23 percent of our employee base identify as persons of color or female, respectively.

Our compensation programs are designed to ensure we attract and retain talent while maintaining alignment with market compensation. We utilize a mix of short-term incentive programs throughout the organization and provide long-term incentive programs to more senior employees generally through stock based compensation programs. We offer competitive employee benefits that are effective in attracting and retaining talent and are designed to support the physical, mental and financial health of our employees. Our employee benefits program includes comprehensive health, dental, life and disability, and retirement benefits.

Our operating philosophy emphasizes the health and safety of our employees. Our operations personnel, supplemented by risk management professionals, review all aspects of employee tasks and work environment to minimize risk. We strive to achieve an injury-free work environment in our operations. Key to these efforts are data analysis and preventative actions. We measure and benchmark lost time incident rate, a reliable indication of total recordable injuries rate and severity, and use a risk reduction process that thoroughly analyzes injuries and near misses.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we have taken extraordinary measures to safeguard the well-being of our employees. These measures include enhanced and comprehensive sanitation procedures, physical distancing, and health protocols, remote working for most office employees, technology enhancements, and temporary financial incentives for employees working diligently to manufacture and distribute beverages for their communities.

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

National Beverage Corp. is dedicated to sustainable operations and responsible business initiatives. All our beverage products are produced in the U.S., providing thousands of jobs in local communities and boasting a lower carbon footprint than imported brands. In addition, the majority of our products are delivered through the warehouse distribution system which provides more efficient and lower greenhouse gas emissions than direct-store delivery competitors.

Water is critical to our business and we periodically conduct water quality assessments on a variety of measurements. All of our packaging is recyclable and we continually focus on reducing packaging content. More than 80% of our products are in aluminum cans, which generally contain approximately 73% recycled material. Each of our facilities has programs in place designed to minimize the use of water, energy, and other natural resources.

## **AVAILABLE INFORMATION**

Our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, proxy statements and amendments to those reports are available free of charge on our website at [www.nationalbeverage.com](http://www.nationalbeverage.com) as soon as reasonably practicable after such reports are electronically filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, our Code of Ethics is available on our website. The information on the Company's website is not part of this Annual Report on Form 10-K or any other report that we file with, or furnish to, the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

In addition to other information in this Annual Report on Form 10-K, the following risk factors should be considered carefully in evaluating the Company's business. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be materially and adversely affected by any of these risks. Additional risks and uncertainties, including risks and uncertainties not presently known to the Company, or that the Company currently deems immaterial, may also impair our business and financial results.

**Brand image and consumer preferences.** Our beverage portfolio is comprised of a number of unique brands with reputations and consumer loyalty that have been built over time. Our investments in social media and marketing as well as our strong commitment to product quality are intended to have a favorable impact on brand image and consumer preferences. Unfavorable publicity, or allegations of quality issues, even if false or unfounded, may tarnish our reputation and brand image and cause consumers to choose other products. In addition, if we do not adequately anticipate and react to changing demographics, consumer trends, health concerns and product preferences, our financial results could be adversely affected.

**Competition.** The beverage industry is extremely competitive. Our products compete with a broad range of beverage products, most of which are manufactured and distributed by companies with substantially greater financial, marketing and distribution resources. Discounting and other actions by our competitors could adversely affect our ability to sustain revenues and profits.

**Customer relationships.** Our retail customer base has been consolidating over many years resulting in fewer customers with increased purchasing power. This increased purchasing power can limit our ability to increase pricing for our products with certain of our customers. Additionally, e-commerce transactions and value stores are experiencing rapid growth. Our inability to adapt to customer requirements could lead to a loss of business and adversely affect our financial results.

**Raw materials and energy.** The production of our products is dependent on certain raw materials, including aluminum, resin, corn, linerboard, water and fruit juice. In addition, the production and distribution of our products is dependent on energy sources, including natural gas, fuel and electricity. These items are subject to price volatility caused by numerous factors. Commodity price increases ultimately result in a corresponding increase in the cost of raw materials and energy. We may be limited in our ability to pass these increases on to our customers or may incur a loss in sales volume to the extent price increases are taken. In addition, strikes, weather conditions, governmental controls, tariffs, national emergencies, natural disasters, supply shortages or other events could affect our continued supply and cost of raw materials and energy. If raw materials or energy costs increase, or their availability is limited, our financial results could be adversely affected.

**Governmental regulation.** Our business and properties are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations, including those governing the production, packaging, quality, labeling and distribution of beverage products. In addition, various governmental agencies have enacted or are considering changes in corporate tax laws as well as, additional taxes on soft drinks and other sweetened beverages. Compliance with or changes in existing laws or regulations could require material expenses and negatively affect our financial results through lower sales or higher costs.

**Sustained increases in the cost of employee benefits.** Our profitability is affected by the cost of medical, statutory and other benefits provided to employees, including employees covered under collective bargaining agreements and multi-employer pension plans. In recent years, we have experienced increases in these costs, certain of which are self-insured. Although we seek to limit these cost increases, continued upward pressure in these costs could reduce our profitability.

**Unfavorable weather conditions.** Unfavorable weather conditions could have an adverse impact on our revenue and profitability. Unusually cold or rainy weather may temporarily reduce demand for our products and contribute to lower sales, which could adversely affect our profitability for such periods. Prolonged drought conditions in the geographic regions in which we do business could lead to restrictions on the use of water, which could adversely affect our ability to produce and distribute products.

**Dependence on key personnel.** Our performance significantly depends upon the continued contributions of our executive officers and key employees, both individually and as a group, and our ability to retain and motivate them. Our officers and key personnel have many years of experience with us and in our industry and it may be difficult to replace them. If we lose key personnel or are unable to recruit qualified personnel, our operations and ability to manage our business may be adversely affected.

**COVID-19 pandemic.** The magnitude and duration of the current COVID-19 pandemic is uncertain, rapidly changing and may be impacted by events beyond our control. Such events could include disruptions in our manufacturing operations or supply arrangements caused by the loss or disruption of essential manufacturing materials, supplies and services, transportation resources, workforce availability, or other manufacturing and distribution capability. Such events could adversely impact our business and financial results.

**Dependence on information technology and third-party service providers.** We use information technology and third-party service providers to support our business processes and activities. Continuity of business applications and services may in the future be disrupted by events such as infection by viruses or malware or other cybersecurity breaches or attacks; issues with systems' maintenance or security; power outages; hardware or software failures; telecommunication failures; natural disasters; and other catastrophic occurrences. If our controls, disaster recovery and business continuity plans or those of our third party providers do not effectively respond to or resolve the issues related to any such disruptions in a timely manner, our sales, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

**ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

Our principal properties include twelve production facilities located in ten states, which aggregate approximately two million square feet. We own ten production facilities in the following states: California (2), Georgia, Kansas, Michigan (2), Ohio, Texas, Utah and Washington. Two production facilities, located in Maryland and Florida, are leased subject to agreements that expire through 2025. We believe our facilities are generally in good condition and sufficient to meet our present needs.

The production of beverages is capital intensive but is not characterized by rapid technological change. The technological advances that have occurred have generally been of an incremental cost-saving nature, such as the industry's conversion to lighter weight containers or improved blending processes that enhance ingredient yields. We are not aware of any anticipated industry-wide changes in technology that would adversely impact our current physical production capacity or cost of production.

We own and lease trucks, vans and automobiles used in the sale, delivery and distribution of our products. In addition, we lease warehouse and office space, transportation equipment, office equipment and certain manufacturing equipment.

**ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The Company has been named in certain legal proceedings, including those containing derivative and class action allegations. The Company is vigorously defending all legal proceedings and believes litigation will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, cash flows or results of operations.

**ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES**

Not applicable.

**PART II**

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

The common stock of National Beverage Corp., par value \$.01 per share, ("Common Stock") is listed on The NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol "FIZZ".

At June 14, 2021, there were approximately 38,700 holders of our Common Stock, the majority of which hold their shares in the names of banks, brokers and other financial institutions.

The Company paid special cash dividends on Common Stock of \$279.9 million (\$3.00 per share) on January 29, 2021; \$135.2 million (\$1.45 per share) on January 29, 2019; and \$69.9 million (\$.75 per share) on August 4, 2017 and January 27, 2017.

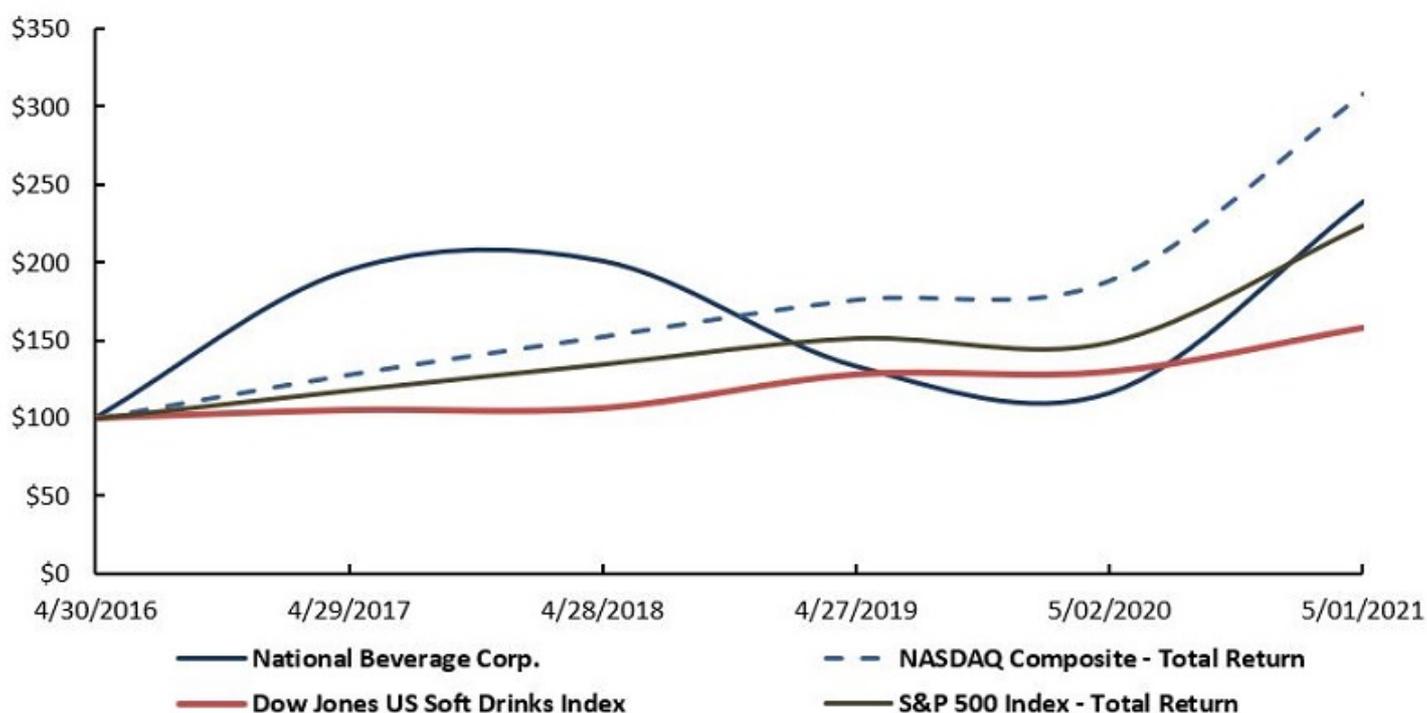
On February 5, 2021, the Company's board of directors declared a one-for-one stock split in the form of a stock dividend. This dividend was distributed on February 19, 2021 to shareholders of record on February 16, 2021. Share information and earnings per share have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the stock split.

Our Board of Directors has authorized a program to repurchase 3.2 million shares of our common stock of which approximately 1.9 million shares remain available and authorized for repurchases.

**Performance Graph**

The following graph shows a comparison of the five-year cumulative returns of an investment of \$100 cash on April 30, 2016, assuming reinvestment of dividends, of our Common Stock with the NASDAQ Composite Index, the S&P 500 Index and the Dow Jones US Soft Drinks Index.

**Comparison of 5-Year Cumulative Total Return**  
among National Beverage Corp., the NASDAQ Composite Index, Dow Jones US Soft Drinks Index  
and S&P 500 Index



Legend						
Total Returns Index For:	4/30/2016	4/29/2017	4/28/2018	4/27/2019	5/02/2020	5/01/2021
National Beverage Corp.	\$100.00	\$195.12	\$200.89	\$133.02	\$115.83	\$239.16
NASDAQ Composite - Total Return	100.00	128.18	152.51	176.14	188.37	308.02
Dow Jones US Soft Drinks Index	100.00	105.09	106.23	127.82	129.51	157.61
S&P 500 - Total Return	100.00	117.92	134.66	151.27	148.62	223.20

**Item 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**

The following selected financial data should be read in conjunction with "Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and consolidated financial statements and notes thereto contained in "Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data" of this Annual Report on Form 10-K.

**NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

(In thousands, except per share and footnote amounts)

	Fiscal Year Ended				
	May 1, 2021	May 2, 2020 <sup>(3)</sup>	April 27, 2019	April 28, 2018	April 29, 2017
<b>SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:</b>					
Net sales	\$ 1,072,210	\$ 1,000,394	\$ 1,014,105	\$ 975,734	\$ 826,918
Cost of sales	650,594	630,254	629,755	584,599	500,841
Gross profit	421,616	370,140	384,350	391,135	326,077
Selling, general and administrative expenses	193,791	204,394	204,415	186,947	163,600
Interest expense	220	202	202	201	189
Other income	(532)	(3,911)	(4,144)	(1,502)	(537)
Income before income taxes	228,137	169,455	183,877	205,489	162,825
Provision for income taxes	53,991	39,483	43,024	55,715	55,780
Net income	<u>\$ 174,146</u>	<u>\$ 129,972</u>	<u>\$ 140,853</u>	<u>\$ 149,774</u>	<u>\$ 107,045</u>
<b>PER SHARE DATA:</b>					
Basic earnings per common share (1)	\$ 1.87	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.51	\$ 1.61	\$ 1.15
Diluted earnings per common share (1)	1.86	1.39	1.50	1.60	1.15
Closing stock price	48.59	25.04	28.75	44.89	44.30
Dividends paid on common stock (2)	3.00	-	1.45	.75	.75
<b>BALANCE SHEET DATA:</b>					
Cash and equivalents (2)	\$ 193,589	\$ 304,518	\$ 156,200	\$ 189,864	\$ 136,372
Working capital (2)	217,748	319,024	224,420	248,297	181,115
Property, plant and equipment - net	131,027	120,627	111,316	85,807	65,150
Total assets (2)	557,237	648,646	452,193	458,832	353,983
Long-term lease obligations	28,837	32,159	-	-	-
Deferred income tax liability	17,294	14,823	15,987	14,502	12,087
Shareholders' equity (2)	355,997	452,337	331,609	331,440	245,618
Dividends paid on common stock (2)	279,876	-	135,247	69,878	69,850

(1) Basic earnings per common share is computed by dividing earnings available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings per common share includes the dilutive effect of stock options.

(2) The Company paid special cash dividends of \$279.9 million (\$3.00 per share) on January 29, 2021, \$135.2 million (\$1.45 per share) on January 29, 2019 and \$69.9 million (\$.75 per share) on August 4, 2017 and January 27, 2017.

(3) Fiscal 2020 consisted of 53 weeks, all other periods consisted of 52 weeks.

## ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### OVERVIEW

National Beverage Corp. innovatively refreshes America with a distinctive portfolio of sparkling waters, juices, energy drinks (Power+ Brands) and, to a lesser extent, carbonated soft drinks. We believe our creative product designs, innovative packaging and imaginative flavors, along with our corporate culture and philosophy, make National Beverage unique as a stand-alone entity in the beverage industry.

National Beverage Corp., in recent years, has transformed to an innovative, healthier refreshment company. From our corporate philosophy, development of products and marketing to manufacturing, we are converting consumers to a '*Better for You*' thirst quencher that compassionately cares for their nutritional health. We are committed to our quest to innovate for the joy, benefit and enjoyment of our consumers' healthier lifestyle!

National Beverage Corp. is uniquely positioned in three distinctive ways:

- (1) The retail industry is in revolution. In prior years, each retailer induced their consumer with a proprietary brand (especially soft drinks), but today understands that the well-informed, smart consumer is demanding that retailers provide recognizable brands that have earned their respective consumer standing on their merits.
- (2) Retail today is in the most competitively-indexed service industry, without exception. Innovation, plus the urgent time demands on the consumer, requires quick, expedient shopping. Home delivery is even more of a current shoppers' choice. Retailers cannot carry slower-moving items that home delivery will not support.
- (3) The new consumer is the most competent/knowledgeable product analyzer ever, and personal mental/physical lifestyles demand that healthier is their preferred choice. Calories must qualify as worthy; sugar being enemy #1 in the life of the Millennial and younger consumers.

Our strategy seeks the profitable growth of our products by (i) developing healthier beverages in response to the global shift in consumer buying habits and tailoring our beverage portfolio to the preferences of a diverse mix of 'crossover consumers' – a growing group desiring a healthier alternative to artificially sweetened and high-caloric beverages; (ii) emphasizing unique flavor development and variety throughout our brands that appeal to multiple demographic groups; (iii) maintaining points of difference through innovative marketing, packaging and consumer engagement and (iv) responding faster and more creatively to changing consumer trends than larger competitors who are burdened by legacy production and distribution complexity and costs.

Presently, our primary market focus is the United States and Canada. Certain of our products are also distributed on a limited basis in other countries and options to expand distribution to other regions are being considered. To service a diverse customer base that includes numerous national retailers, as well as thousands of smaller "up-and-down-the-street" accounts, we utilize a hybrid distribution system consisting of warehouse and direct-store delivery. The warehouse delivery system allows our retail partners to further maximize their assets by utilizing their ability to pick up product at our warehouses, further lowering their/our product costs.

National Beverage Corp. is incorporated in Delaware and began trading as a public company on the NASDAQ Stock Market in 1991. In this report, the terms “we,” “us,” “our,” “Company” and “National Beverage” mean National Beverage Corp. and its subsidiaries unless indicated otherwise.

Our operating results are affected by numerous factors, including fluctuations in the costs of raw materials, holiday and seasonal programming and weather conditions. While prior years witnessed more seasonality, higher sales are realized during the summer when outdoor activities are more prevalent.

Our highly innovative business, where new beverages are developed and produced for selective holidays and ceremonial dates, should not be analyzed on the common three-month (quarterly) periods, traditionally found acceptable. Today, costly development projects and seasonal weather periods plus promotional packaging often make quarter-to-quarter comparisons unworthy statistics that force companies to decision making that is not truly beneficial for investors and shareholders alike.

Traditional and typical are not a part of an innovator’s vocabulary.

## **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

The following section generally discusses the fiscal years ended May 1, 2021 (Fiscal 2021) and May 2, 2020 (Fiscal 2020) items and year-to-year comparisons between Fiscal 2021 and Fiscal 2020. Discussions of fiscal year ended April 27, 2019 (Fiscal 2019) items and year-to-year comparisons between Fiscal 2020 and Fiscal 2019 can be found in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in Part II, Item 7 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended May 2, 2020, which is available free of charge on our website at [www.nationalbeverage.com](http://www.nationalbeverage.com). Fiscal 2021 and Fiscal 2019 consisted of 52 weeks while Fiscal 2020 consisted of 53 weeks.

### ***Net Sales***

Net sales for Fiscal 2021 increased 7.2% to \$1,072 million compared to \$1,000 million for Fiscal 2020 (which contained 53 weeks). The increase in sales resulted from a 7.1% increase in branded case volume and a minor increase in average selling price per case due primarily to changes in product mix. Power+ Brands volume increased 10.2% and branded carbonated soft drinks volume increased 1.0%.

### ***Gross Profit***

Gross profit for Fiscal 2021 was \$421.6 million compared to \$370.1 million for Fiscal 2020. The change in gross profit is due to increased volume and growth in higher margin Power+Brands coupled with a 3.7% reduction in cost per case. The cost per case decline resulted primarily from increased volume and lower raw material costs. Gross margin was 39.3% for Fiscal 2021 compared to 37.0% in Fiscal 2020.

Shipping and handling costs are included in selling, general and administrative expenses, the classification of which is consistent with many beverage companies. However, our gross margin may not be comparable to companies that include shipping and handling costs in cost of sales. See Note 1 of Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

### ***Selling, General and Administrative Expenses***

Selling, general and administrative expenses were \$193.8 million for Fiscal 2021, decreasing \$10.6 million from Fiscal 2020. Selling, general and administrative expenses reflect reduced marketing and selling costs, partially offset by increased shipping and handling costs. As a percent of net sales, selling, general and administrative costs decreased to 18.1% in Fiscal 2021 from 20.4% in Fiscal 2020.

### ***Other Income - Net***

Other income, net is primarily interest income of \$.6 million for Fiscal 2021 and \$3.9 million for Fiscal 2020. The change in interest income is due to lower investment yields and reduced average investment balances.

### ***Income Taxes***

Our effective tax rate was 23.7% for Fiscal 2021 and 23.3% for Fiscal 2020. The differences between the effective rate and the federal statutory rate were primarily due to the effects of state income taxes.

## LIQUIDITY AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

### ***Liquidity and Capital Resources***

At May 1, 2021, we maintained \$100 million unsecured revolving credit facilities, under which no borrowings were outstanding and \$2.5 million was reserved for standby letters of credit. Cash generated from operations is our principal source of funds. We believe that existing capital resources will be sufficient to meet our liquidity and capital requirements for the next twelve months. See Note 5 of Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Expenditures for property, plant and equipment amounted to \$25.3 million for Fiscal 2021 primarily for capital projects to expand our production capacity, enhance packaging capabilities or improve efficiencies at our production facilities. We intend to continue production capacity and efficiency improvement projects in Fiscal 2022 and expect capital expenditures to be comparable to Fiscal 2021.

The Company paid special cash dividends on Common Stock of \$279.9 million (\$3.00 per share) on January 29, 2021.

The Board of Directors has authorized the Company to repurchase up to 3.2 million shares of common stock. During Fiscal 2021, the Company did not repurchase any shares. As of May 1, 2021, 1,313,144 shares had been purchased under the program and 1,886,856 shares were available for repurchase.

Pursuant to a management agreement, we incurred a fee to Corporate Management Advisors, Inc. (CMA) of \$10.7 million for Fiscal 2021 and \$10.0 million for Fiscal 2020. At May 1, 2021, management fees payable to CMA were \$2.6 million. See Note 6 of Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

### ***Cash Flows***

During Fiscal 2021, \$193.8 million was provided by operating activities, \$25.3 million was used in investing activities and \$279.4 million was used in financing activities. Cash provided by operating activities increased \$16.1 million primarily due to increased net income offset in part by increased working capital requirements. Cash used in investing activities increased due to capital expenditures, in order to support production efficiencies and volume growth. Cash used in financing activities primarily consists of \$279.9 million (\$3.00 per share) special cash dividend was paid on January 29, 2021.

### ***Financial Position***

During Fiscal 2021, our working capital declined to \$219.8 million from \$319.0 million at May 2, 2020. The decrease in working capital resulted from lower cash and equivalents due to the January 2021 cash dividend and higher accounts payable, partially offset by increased inventories and prepaid expenses. Trade receivables increased slightly and days sales outstanding was 30.1 days at May 1, 2021 compared to 29.5 days at May 2, 2020. Inventories increased \$8.0 million or 12.6% as a result of increases in finished goods and raw materials, while annual inventory turns increased to 9.6 from 9.4 times. As of May 1, 2021, the current ratio was 2.5 to 1 compared to 3.3 to 1 at May 2, 2020.

**CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

Contractual obligations at May 1, 2021 are payable as follows:

	(In thousands)				
	Total	1 Year Or less	2 to 3 Years	3 to 5 Years	More Than 5 Years
Operating leases	\$ 46,614	\$ 15,729	\$ 18,286	\$ 8,288	\$ 4,311
Purchase commitments	19,976	19,706	270	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 66,590</b>	<b>\$ 35,435</b>	<b>\$ 18,556</b>	<b>\$ 8,288</b>	<b>\$ 4,311</b>

We contribute to certain pension plans under collective bargaining agreements and to a discretionary profit sharing plan. Annual contributions were \$3.7 million for Fiscal 2021, \$3.6 million for Fiscal 2020 and \$3.8 million for Fiscal 2019. See Note 11 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

We maintain self-insured and deductible programs for certain liability, medical and workers' compensation exposures. Other long-term liabilities include known claims and estimated incurred but not reported claims not otherwise covered by insurance based on actuarial assumptions and historical claims experience. Since the timing and amount of claim payments vary significantly, we are not able to reasonably estimate future payments for specific periods and therefore such payments have not been included in the table above. Standby letters of credit aggregating \$2.5 million have been issued in connection with our self-insurance programs. These standby letters of credit expire through April 2022 and are expected to be renewed.

**OFF-BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS AND ESTIMATES**

We do not have any off-balance sheet arrangements that have, or are reasonably likely to have, a current or future material effect on our financial condition.

**CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Although these estimates are based on management's knowledge of current events and actions it may undertake in the future, they may ultimately differ from actual results. We believe that the critical accounting policies described in the following paragraphs comprise the most significant estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of our consolidated financial statements. For these policies, we caution that future events rarely develop exactly as estimated and the best estimates routinely require adjustment.

**Credit Risk**

We sell products to a variety of customers and extend credit based on an evaluation of each customer's financial condition, generally without requiring collateral. Exposure to credit losses varies by customer principally due to the financial condition of each customer. We monitor our exposure to credit losses and maintain allowances for anticipated losses based on our experience with past due accounts, collectability and our analysis of customer data.

***Impairment of Long-Lived Assets***

All long-lived assets, excluding goodwill and intangible assets not subject to amortization, are evaluated for impairment on the basis of undiscounted cash flows whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impaired asset is written down to its estimated fair value based on the best information available. Estimated fair value is generally measured by discounting future cash flows. Goodwill and intangible assets not subject to amortization are evaluated for impairment annually or sooner if we believe such assets may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount or, for goodwill, the carrying amount of its reporting unit, is greater than its fair value.

***Income Taxes***

The Company's effective income tax rate is based on estimates of taxes which will ultimately be payable. Deferred taxes are recorded to give recognition to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets or liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements. Valuation allowances are established to reduce the carrying amounts of deferred tax assets when it is deemed, more likely than not, that the benefit of deferred tax assets will not be realized.

***Insurance Programs***

We maintain self-insured and deductible programs for certain liability, medical and workers' compensation exposures. Accordingly, we accrue for known claims and estimated incurred but not reported claims not otherwise covered by insurance based on actuarial assumptions and historical claims experience.

***Revenue Recognition***

We recognize revenue upon delivery to our customers, based on written sales terms that do not allow a right of return except in rare instances. Our products are typically sold on credit; however smaller direct-store delivery accounts may be sold on a cash basis. Our credit terms normally require payment within 30 days of delivery and may allow discounts for early payment. We estimate and reserve for bad debt exposure based on our experience with past due accounts, collectability and our analysis of customer data.

We offer various sales incentive arrangements to our customers that require customer performance or achievement of certain sales volume targets. Sales incentives are accrued over the period of benefit or expected sales. When the incentive is paid in advance, the aggregate incentive is recorded as a prepaid and amortized over the period of benefit. The recognition of these incentives involves the use of judgment related to performance and sales volume estimates that are made based on historical experience and other factors. Sales incentives are accounted for as a reduction of sales and actual amounts ultimately realized may vary from accrued amounts. Such differences are recorded once determined and have historically not been significant.

## FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

National Beverage Corp. and its representatives may make written or oral statements relating to future events or results relative to our financial, operational and business performance, achievements, objectives and strategies. These statements are “forward-looking” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and include statements contained in this report and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and in reports to our stockholders. Certain statements including, without limitation, statements containing the words “believes,” “anticipates,” “intends,” “plans,” “expects,” and “estimates” constitute “forward-looking statements” and involve known and unknown risk, uncertainties and other factors that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of our Company to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to, the following: general economic and business conditions, pricing of competitive products, success of new product and flavor introductions, fluctuations in the costs and availability of raw materials and packaging supplies, ability to pass along cost increases to our customers, labor strikes or work stoppages or other interruptions in the employment of labor, continued retailer support for our products, changes in brand image, consumer demand and preferences and our success in creating products geared toward consumers’ tastes, success in implementing business strategies, changes in business strategy or development plans, government regulations, taxes or fees imposed on the sale of our products, unfavorable weather conditions and other factors referenced in this report, filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and other reports to our stockholders. We disclaim an obligation to update any such factors or to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any forward-looking statements contained herein to reflect future events or developments.

## ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

### *Commodities*

We purchase various raw materials, including aluminum cans, plastic bottles, high fructose corn syrup, corrugated packaging and juice concentrates, the prices of which fluctuate based on commodity market conditions. Our ability to recover increased costs through higher pricing may be limited by the competitive environment in which we operate. At times, we manage our exposure to this risk through the use of supplier pricing agreements that enable us to establish all, or a portion of, the purchase prices for certain raw materials. Additionally, we use derivative financial instruments to partially mitigate our exposure to changes in certain raw material costs.

### *Interest Rates*

At May 1, 2021, the Company had no borrowings outstanding. We had no debt-related interest rate exposure during Fiscal 2021.

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

**NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP.**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
(In thousands, except share amounts and par value)

	May 1, 2021	May 2, 2020
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and equivalents	\$ 193,589	\$ 304,518
Trade receivables - net	86,442	84,921
Inventory	71,480	63,482
Prepaid and other assets	13,431	7,791
Total current assets	364,942	460,712
Property, plant and equipment - net	131,027	120,627
Right of use assets- net	41,676	47,884
Goodwill	13,145	13,145
Intangible assets	1,615	1,615
Other assets	4,832	4,663
Total assets	<u>\$ 557,237</u>	<u>\$ 648,646</u>
<b>Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 88,754	\$ 74,369
Accrued liabilities	43,551	42,476
Short-term lease obligations	14,800	16,980
Income taxes payable	89	7,863
Total current liabilities	147,194	141,688
Deferred income taxes - net	17,294	14,823
Operating lease liability - non current	28,837	32,159
Other liabilities	7,915	7,639
Total liabilities	201,240	196,309
Commitments and contingencies		
Shareholders' equity:		
Preferred stock, \$1 par value - 1,000,000 shares authorized Series C - 150,000 shares issued	150	150
Common stock, \$.01 par value - 200,000,000 shares authorized; 101,675,858 and 101,606,368 shares issued, respectively	1,016	1,016
Additional paid-in capital	38,375	37,422
Retained earnings	337,672	443,402
Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss)	3,017	(5,420)
Treasury stock - at cost:		
Series C preferred stock - 150,000 shares	(5,100)	(5,100)
Common stock - 8,374,112 shares	(19,133)	(19,133)
Total shareholders' equity	355,997	452,337
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	<u>\$ 557,237</u>	<u>\$ 648,646</u>

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

**NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS**  
(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	Fiscal Year Ended		
	May 1, 2021	May 2, 2020	April 27, 2019
Net sales	\$ 1,072,210	\$ 1,000,394	\$ 1,014,105
Cost of sales	650,594	630,254	629,755
Gross profit	421,616	370,140	384,350
Selling, general and administrative expenses	193,791	204,394	204,415
Operating income	227,825	165,746	179,935
Other income - net	312	3,709	3,942
Income before income taxes	228,137	169,455	183,877
Provision for income taxes	53,991	39,483	43,024
Net income	174,146	129,972	140,853
Earnings per common share:			
Basic	\$ 1.87	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.51
Diluted	\$ 1.86	\$ 1.39	\$ 1.50
Weighted average common shares outstanding:			
Basic	93,280	93,256	93,266
Diluted	93,620	93,656	93,834

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

**NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**  
(In thousands)

	Fiscal Year Ended		
	May 1, 2021	May 2, 2020	April 27, 2019
Net income	\$ 174,146	\$ 129,972	\$ 140,853
Other comprehensive income, net of tax:			
Cash flow hedges	7,930	(3,673)	(6,318)
Other	507	(204)	174
Total	8,437	(3,877)	(6,144)
Comprehensive income	<u>\$ 182,583</u>	<u>\$ 126,095</u>	<u>\$ 134,709</u>

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

**NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

(In thousands)

	Fiscal Year Ended					
	May 1, 2021		May 2, 2020		April 27, 2019	
	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
<b>Series C Preferred Stock</b>						
Beginning and end of year	150	\$ 150	150	\$ 150	150	\$ 150
<b>Common Stock</b>						
Beginning of year	101,606	1,016	101,356	1,014	101,302	1,014
Stock options exercised	70	-	250	2	54	-
End of year	101,676	1,016	101,606	1,016	101,356	1,014
<b>Additional Paid-In Capital</b>						
Beginning of year		37,422		36,557		35,850
Stock options exercised		491		740		456
Stock-based compensation		462		125		251
End of year		38,375		37,422		36,557
<b>Retained Earnings</b>						
Beginning of year		443,402		313,430		307,824
Net income		174,146		129,972		140,853
Common stock cash dividend		(279,876)		-		(135,247)
End of year		337,672		443,402		313,430
<b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss)</b>						
Beginning of year		(5,420)		(1,543)		4,601
Cash flow hedges		7,930		(3,673)		(6,318)
Other		507		(204)		174
End of year		3,017		(5,420)		(1,543)
<b>Treasury Stock - Series C Preferred</b>						
Beginning and end of year	150	(5,100)	150	(5,100)	150	(5,100)
<b>Treasury Stock - Common</b>						
Beginning and end of year	8,374	(19,133)	8,065	(12,900)	8,065	(12,900)
Repurchase of common stock	-	-	309	(6,233)	-	-
	8,374	(19,133)	8,374	(19,133)	8,065	(12,900)
<b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b>		<u>\$ 355,997</u>		<u>\$ 452,337</u>		<u>\$ 331,609</u>

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

**NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(In thousands)

	Fiscal Year Ended		
	May 1, 2021	May 2, 2020	April 27, 2019
<b>Operating Activities:</b>			
Net income	\$ 174,146	\$ 129,972	\$ 140,853
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	18,097	17,234	15,439
Deferred income tax provision	(132)	11	3,351
Loss on disposal of property, net	114	206	12
Stock-based compensation	462	125	251
Amortization of operating right to use assets	13,060	13,351	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:			
Trade receivables	(1,521)	(80)	(481)
Inventories	(7,998)	7,220	(9,782)
Operating lease right of use assets	(11,092)	(5,368)	-
Prepaid and other assets	35	(5,633)	(2,806)
Accounts payable	14,385	8,168	(8,651)
Accrued and other liabilities	(4,524)	19,215	1,256
Operating lease liabilities	(1,262)	(6,729)	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>193,770</u>	<u>177,692</u>	<u>139,442</u>
<b>Investing Activities:</b>			
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(25,308)	(23,890)	(38,333)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	(6)	9	18
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(25,314)</u>	<u>(23,881)</u>	<u>(38,315)</u>
<b>Financing Activities:</b>			
Dividends paid on common stock	(279,876)	-	(135,247)
Proceeds from stock options exercised	491	740	456
Repurchase of common stock	-	(6,233)	-
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(279,385)</u>	<u>(5,493)</u>	<u>(134,791)</u>
<b>Net Increase (decrease) in Cash and Equivalents</b>	<b>(110,929)</b>	<b>148,318</b>	<b>(33,664)</b>
<b>Cash and Equivalents - Beginning of Year</b>	<b>304,518</b>	<b>156,200</b>	<b>189,864</b>
<b>Cash and Equivalents - End of Year</b>	<b><u>\$ 193,589</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 304,518</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 156,200</u></b>
<b>Other Cash Flow Information:</b>			
Interest paid	<u>\$ 148</u>	<u>\$ 51</u>	<u>\$ 51</u>
Income taxes paid	<u>\$ 63,357</u>	<u>\$ 29,364</u>	<u>\$ 36,833</u>

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

## NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES

### Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

National Beverage Corp. develops, produces, markets and sells a distinctive portfolio of sparkling waters, juices, energy drinks and carbonated soft drinks primarily in the United States and Canada. Incorporated in Delaware in 1985, National Beverage Corp. is a holding company for various operating subsidiaries. When used in this report, the terms “we,” “us,” “our,” “Company” and “National Beverage” mean National Beverage Corp. and its subsidiaries.

#### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### ***Basis of Presentation***

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of National Beverage Corp. and all subsidiaries. All significant intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated. Our fiscal year ends the Saturday closest to April 30 and, as a result, an additional week is added every five or six years. The fiscal year ended May 1, 2021 (Fiscal 2021) and fiscal year ended April 27, 2019 (Fiscal 2019) consisted of 52 weeks. The fiscal year ended May 2, 2020 (Fiscal 2020) consisted of 53 weeks.

##### ***Reclassification***

On February 5, 2021, the Company's board of directors declared a one-for-one stock split in the form of a stock dividend. This dividend was distributed on February 19, 2021 to shareholders of record on February 16, 2021. Share information and earnings per share have been retroactively adjusted to reflect the stock split.

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior period balances in order to conform to the current period's presentation.

##### ***Cash and Equivalents***

Cash and equivalents are comprised of cash and highly liquid securities (consisting primarily of bank deposits and short-term government money-market investments).

##### ***Derivative Financial Instruments***

Derivative financial instruments are used to partially mitigate our exposure to changes in certain raw material costs. All derivative financial instruments are recorded at fair value in our consolidated balance sheets. Derivative financial instruments are not used for trading or speculative purposes. Credit risk related to derivative financial instruments is managed by requiring high credit standards for counterparties and frequent cash settlements.

##### ***Earnings Per Common Share***

Basic earnings per common share is computed by dividing earnings available to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per common share is calculated in a similar manner, but includes the dilutive effect of stock options amounting to 340,000 shares in Fiscal 2021, 400,000 shares in Fiscal 2020, and 568,000 shares in Fiscal 2019.

##### ***Fair Value of Financial Instruments***

The estimated fair values of derivative financial instruments are calculated based on market rates to settle the instruments. These values represent the estimated amounts we would receive upon sale, taking into consideration current market prices and credit worthiness.

***Impairment of Long-Lived Assets***

All long-lived assets, excluding goodwill and intangible assets not subject to amortization, are evaluated for impairment on the basis of undiscounted cash flows whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. An impaired asset is written down to its estimated fair market value based on the best information available. Estimated fair value is generally measured by discounting future cash flows. Goodwill and intangible assets not subject to amortization are evaluated for impairment annually or sooner if management believes such assets may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount or, for goodwill, the carrying amount of its reporting unit, is greater than its fair value.

***Income Taxes***

The Company's effective income tax rate is based on estimates of taxes which will ultimately be payable. Deferred taxes are recorded to give recognition to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets or liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements. Valuation allowances are established to reduce the carrying amounts of deferred tax assets when it is deemed, more likely than not, that the benefit of deferred tax assets will not be realized.

***Insurance Programs***

The Company maintains self-insured and deductible programs for certain liability, medical and workers' compensation exposures. Accordingly, the Company accrues for known claims and estimated incurred but not reported claims not otherwise covered by insurance based on actuarial assumptions and historical claims experience. At May 1, 2021, and May 2, 2020, other liabilities included accruals of \$5.9 million and \$5.5 million, respectively, for estimated non-current risk retention exposures, of which \$4.5 million, was covered by insurance at both dates and included as a component of non-current other assets.

***Intangible Assets***

Intangible Assets as of May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020 consisted of non-amortizable acquired trademarks.

***Inventories***

Inventories are stated at the lower of first-in, first-out cost or market. Adjustments, if required, to reduce the cost of inventory to market (net realizable value) are made for estimated excess, obsolete or impaired balances. Inventories at May 1, 2021 were comprised of finished goods of \$43.3 million and raw materials of \$28.2 million. Inventories at May 2, 2020 were comprised of finished goods of \$39.1 million and raw materials of \$24.4 million.

***Marketing Costs***

The Company utilizes a variety of marketing programs, including cooperative advertising programs with customers, to advertise and promote our products to consumers. Marketing costs are expensed when incurred, except for prepaid advertising and production costs, which are expensed when the advertising takes place. Marketing costs, which are included in selling, general and administrative expenses, totaled \$43.4 million in Fiscal 2021, \$54.8 million in Fiscal 2020 and \$55.3 million in Fiscal 2019.

***Property, Plant and Equipment***

Property, plant and equipment is recorded at cost. Additions, replacements and betterments are capitalized, while maintenance and repairs that do not extend the useful life of an asset are expensed as incurred. Depreciation is recorded using the straight-line method over estimated useful lives of 5 to 30 years for buildings and improvements and 3 to 15 years for machinery and equipment. Leasehold improvements are amortized using the straight-line method over the shorter of the remaining lease term or the estimated useful life of the improvement. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed, the cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the respective accounts and any related gain or loss is recognized.

***Revenue Recognition***

Revenue is recognized upon delivery to our customers, based on written sales terms that do not allow a right of return except in rare instances. Our products are typically sold on credit. However, smaller direct store delivery accounts may be sold on a cash basis. Our credit terms normally require payment within 30 days of delivery and may allow discounts for early payment. The Company estimates and reserves for bad debt exposure based on our experience with past due accounts, collectability and our analysis of customer data.

Various sales incentive arrangements are offered to our customers that require customer performance or achievement of certain sales volume targets. Sales incentives are accrued over the period of benefit or expected sales. When the incentive is paid in advance, the aggregate incentive is recorded as a prepaid and amortized over the period of benefit. The recognition of these incentives involves the use of judgment related to performance and sales volume estimates that are made based on historical experience and other factors. Sales incentives are accounted for as a reduction of sales and actual amounts ultimately realized may vary from accrued amounts. Such differences are recorded once determined and have historically not been significant.

***Segment Reporting***

The Company operates as a single operating segment for purposes of presenting financial information and evaluating performance. As such, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present financial information in a format that is consistent with the internal financial information used by management. The Company does not accumulate revenues by product classification and, therefore, it is impractical to present such information..

***Shipping and Handling Costs***

Shipping and handling costs are reported in selling, general and administrative expenses in the accompanying consolidated statements of income. Such costs aggregated \$75.5 million in Fiscal 2021, \$69.8 million in Fiscal 2020 and \$72.4 million in Fiscal 2019. Although our classification is consistent with many beverage companies, our gross margin may not be comparable to companies that include shipping and handling costs in cost of sales.

**Trade Receivables**

Trade receivables are recorded at net realizable value, which includes an estimated allowance for doubtful accounts. The Company extends credit based on an evaluation of each customer's financial condition, generally without requiring collateral. Exposure to credit losses varies by customer principally due to the financial condition of each customer. The Company continually monitors our exposure to credit losses and maintains allowances for anticipated losses based on our experience with past due accounts, collectability and our analysis of customer data. Actual future losses from uncollectible accounts could differ from the Company's estimate. Changes in the allowance for doubtful accounts was as follows:

	(In thousands)		
	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 1,350	\$ 516	\$ 452
Net charge (credit) to expense	(138)	893	87
Net charge-off	(72)	(59)	(23)
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 1,140</u>	<u>\$ 1,350</u>	<u>\$ 516</u>

As of May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020, the Company had no customer that comprised more than 10% of trade receivables. No customer accounted for more than 10% of net sales during any of the last three fiscal years.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of our financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Although these estimates are based on management's knowledge of current events and anticipated future actions, actual results may vary from reported amounts.

**2. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

Property, plant and equipment as of May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020 consisted of the following:

	(In thousands)	
	2021	2020
Land	\$ 9,835	\$ 9,835
Buildings and improvements	62,346	59,618
Machinery and equipment	257,119	238,300
Total	329,300	307,753
Less accumulated depreciation	(198,273)	(187,126)
Property, plant and equipment – net	<u>\$ 131,027</u>	<u>\$ 120,627</u>

Depreciation expense was \$14.8 million for Fiscal 2021, \$14.4 million for Fiscal 2020 and \$12.8 million for Fiscal 2019.

**3. ACCRUED LIABILITIES**

Accrued liabilities as of May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020 consisted of the following:

	(In thousands)	
	2021	2020
Accrued compensation	\$ 11,826	\$ 11,348
Accrued promotions	13,361	9,061
Accrued freight	3,653	3,443
Accrued insurance	2,519	2,934
Recycling deposits	7,522	5,688
Other	4,670	10,002
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 43,551</b>	<b>\$ 42,476</b>

**4. LEASES**

The Company has entered into various non-cancelable operating lease agreements for certain of our offices, buildings, machinery and equipment expiring at various dates through January 2029. The Company does not assume renewals in our determination of the lease term unless the renewals are deemed to be reasonably assured at lease commencement. Lease agreements generally do not contain material residual value guarantees or material restrictive covenants. Operating lease cost for Fiscal 2021 was \$13.1 million. The weighted-average remaining lease term and weighted average discount rate of operating leases was 3.06 years and 3.38%, respectively as of May 1, 2021. Net cash provided by operations was impacted by \$11.1 million for operating leases for the year ended May 1, 2021.

The following is a summary of future minimum lease payments and related liabilities for all non-cancelable operating leases as of May 1, 2021:

	(In thousands)
Fiscal 2022	\$ 15,729
Fiscal 2023	10,290
Fiscal 2024	7,996
Fiscal 2025	5,108
Fiscal 2026	3,180
Thereafter	4,311
<b>Total minimum lease payments including interest</b>	<b>46,614</b>
Less: Amounts representing interest	(2,977)
<b>Present value of minimum lease payments</b>	<b>43,637</b>
Less: Current portion of lease liabilities	(14,800)
<b>Non-Current portion of operating lease liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 28,837</b>

## **5. DEBT**

At May 1, 2021, a subsidiary of the Company maintained unsecured revolving credit facilities with banks aggregating \$100 million (the Credit Facilities). The Credit Facilities expire from October 3, 2020 to June 18, 2021 and any borrowings would currently bear interest at 1.0% above one-month LIBOR. There were no borrowings outstanding under the Credit Facilities at May 1, 2021 or May 2, 2020. At May 1, 2021, \$2.5 million of the Credit Facilities was reserved for standby letters of credit and \$97.5 million was available for borrowings.

The Credit Facilities require the subsidiary to maintain certain financial ratios, including debt to net worth and debt to EBITDA (as defined in the Credit Facilities), and contain other restrictions, none of which are expected to have a material effect on our operations or financial position. At May 1, 2021, the Company was in compliance with all loan covenants.

## **6. CAPITAL STOCK AND TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES**

The Board of Directors has authorized the Company to repurchase up to 3.2 million shares of common stock. During Fiscal 2020, the Company purchased an aggregate 154,512 shares for a cost of \$6.2 million. As of May 2, 2020, 1,313,144 shares were purchased under the program and 1,886,856 shares were available for repurchase.

The Company paid a special cash dividend on Common Stock of \$279.9 million on January 29, 2021 (\$3.00 per share), \$135.2 million (\$1.45 per share) on January 29, 2019, and \$69.9 million (\$.75 per share) on August 4, 2017 and January 27, 2017.

The Company is a party to a management agreement with Corporate Management Advisors, Inc. (CMA), a corporation owned by our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. This agreement was originated in 1991 for the efficient use of management of two public companies at the time. In 1994, one of those public entities, through a merger, no longer was managed in this manner.

Under the terms of the agreement, CMA provides, subject to the direction and supervision of the Board of Directors of the Company, (i) senior corporate functions (including supervision of the Company's financial, legal, executive recruitment, internal audit and information systems departments) as well as the services of a Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, and (ii) services in connection with acquisitions, dispositions and financings by the Company, including identifying and profiling acquisition candidates, negotiating and structuring potential transactions and arranging financing for any such transaction. CMA, through its personnel, also provides, to the extent possible, the stimulus and creativity to develop an innovative and dynamic persona for the Company, its products and corporate image. In order to fulfill its obligations under the management agreement, CMA employs numerous individuals, who, acting as a unit, provide management, administrative and creative functions for the Company.

CMA and the Company are joint owners of a corporate aircraft and pursuant to a joint ownership agreement, each party agreed to pay certain expenses associated with the use of the aircraft. During the past three years, the joint operating costs have averaged approximately \$1.0 million per year and the Company's lease payments for its ownership interest have averaged approximately \$.6 million per year. In conjunction with an inquiry by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") for the fiscal years 2015 through 2020, the Company initiated a review to determine that the aircraft usage costs were properly classified in accordance with SEC standards. For purposes of settling these proceedings the Company has volunteered an offer of settlement. The offer, if approved by the SEC, will require an immaterial payment that has been accrued at May 1, 2021.

The management agreement provides that the Company will pay CMA an annual base fee equal to one percent of the consolidated net sales of the Company, and further provides that the Compensation and Stock Option Committee and the Board of Directors may from time to time award additional incentive compensation to CMA or its personnel. The Board of Directors on numerous occasions contemplated incentive compensation to CMA, however, since the inception of this agreement, no incentive compensation has been paid. We incurred management fees to CMA of \$10.7 million for Fiscal 2021, \$10.0 million for Fiscal 2020, and \$10.2 million for Fiscal 2019. Amounts due CMA of \$3.8 million at May 1, 2021, which includes \$1.2 for costs reimbursable under the management agreement, and \$2.6 million at May 2, 2020.

## 7. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

From time to time, the Company enters into aluminum swap contracts to partially mitigate our exposure to changes in the cost of aluminum cans. Such financial instruments are designated and accounted for as cash flow hedges. Accordingly, gains or losses attributable to the effective portion of the cash flow hedges are reported in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) (AOCI) and reclassified into cost of sales in the period in which the hedged transaction affects earnings. The ineffective portion of the change in fair value of our cash flow hedge was immaterial. The following summarizes the gains (losses) recognized in the consolidated statements of income and AOCI for Fiscal 2021, Fiscal 2020 and Fiscal 2019:

	(In thousands)		
	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019
<b>Recognized in AOCI-</b>			
Gain (loss) before income taxes	\$ 12,973	\$ (9,613)	\$ (6,138)
Less income tax provision (benefit)	3,103	(2,299)	(1,468)
Net	<u>9,870</u>	<u>(7,314)</u>	<u>(4,670)</u>
<b>Reclassified from AOCI to cost of sales-</b>			
Gain (loss) before income taxes	2,550	(4,786)	2,100
Less income tax provision (benefit)	610	(1,145)	452
Net	<u>1,940</u>	<u>(3,641)</u>	<u>1,648</u>
Net change to AOCI	<u>\$ 7,930</u>	<u>\$ (3,673)</u>	<u>\$ (6,318)</u>

As of May 1, 2021, the notional amount of our outstanding aluminum swap contracts was \$6.2 million and, assuming no change in the commodity prices, \$3.6 million of unrealized gain before tax will be reclassified from AOCI and recognized in earnings over the next 12 months.

As of May 1, 2021, the fair value of the derivative asset was \$3.6 million, which was included in prepaid and other assets. As of May 2, 2020, the fair value of the derivative liability was \$6.9 million, which was included as a component of accrued liabilities. Such valuation does not entail a significant amount of judgment and the inputs that are significant to the fair value measurement are Level 2 as defined by the fair value hierarchy as they are observable market based inputs or unobservable inputs that are corroborated by market data.

## 8. INCOME TAXES

The provision for income taxes consisted of the following:

	(In thousands)		
	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019
Current	\$ 51,520	\$ 40,647	\$ 39,673
Deferred	2,471	(1,164)	3,351
Total	<u>\$ 53,991</u>	<u>\$ 39,483</u>	<u>\$ 43,024</u>

Deferred taxes are recorded to give recognition to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets or liabilities and their reported amounts in the financial statements. Valuation allowances are established to reduce the carrying amounts of deferred tax assets when it is deemed more likely than not that the benefit of deferred tax assets will not be realized. Deferred tax assets and liabilities as of May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020 consisted of the following:

	(In thousands)	
	2021	2020
<b>Deferred tax assets:</b>		
Accrued expenses and other	\$ 3,347	\$ 4,930
Inventory and amortizable assets	544	565
Total deferred tax assets	3,891	5,495
<b>Deferred tax liabilities:</b>		
Property	18,814	18,872
Intangibles and other	2,371	1,446
Total deferred tax liabilities	21,185	20,318
<b>Net deferred tax liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 17,294</b>	<b>\$ 14,823</b>

The reconciliation of the statutory federal income tax rate to our effective tax rate is as follows:

	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019
Statutory federal income tax rate	21.0%	21.0%	21.0%
State income taxes, net of federal benefit	2.9	2.9	2.9
Domestic manufacturing deduction benefit	-	-	-
Re-measurement of deferred taxes	-	-	-
Other differences	(.2)	(.6)	(.5)
<b>Effective income tax rate</b>	<b>23.7%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>23.4%</b>

As of May 1, 2021, the gross amount of unrecognized tax benefits was \$2.0 million and \$53,000 was recognized as tax expense in Fiscal 2021. If the Company is to prevail on all uncertain tax positions, the net effect would be to reduce our tax expense by approximately \$1.7 million. A reconciliation of the changes in the gross amount of unrecognized tax benefits, which amounts are included in other liabilities in the accompanying consolidated balance sheets, is as follows:

	(In thousands)		
	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019
Beginning balance	\$ 1,974	\$ 1,868	\$ 1,733
Increases due to current period tax positions	150	120	139
Decreases due to lapse of statute of limitations and audit resolutions	(69)	(14)	(4)
<b>Ending balance</b>	<b>\$ 2,055</b>	<b>\$ 1,974</b>	<b>\$ 1,868</b>

Accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits are recognized as a component of income tax expense. As of May 1, 2021, unrecognized tax benefits included accrued interest of \$258,000, of which approximately \$9,000 was recognized as tax expense in Fiscal 2021.

Annual income tax returns are filed in the United States and in various state and local jurisdictions. A number of years may elapse before an uncertain tax position, for which the Company has unrecognized tax benefits, are resolved. While it is often difficult to predict the final outcome or the timing of resolution of any particular uncertain tax positions, the Company believes that unrecognized tax benefits reflect the most probable outcome. The Company adjusts these unrecognized tax benefits, as well as the related interest, in light of changing facts and circumstances. The resolution of any particular uncertain tax position could require the use of cash and an adjustment to our provision for income taxes in the period of resolution. Federal income tax returns for years subsequent to Fiscal 2016 are subject to examination. Generally, the income tax returns for the various state jurisdictions are subject to examination for years ending after Fiscal 2014.

## **9. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The Company has been named in certain legal proceedings, including those containing derivative and class action allegations. The Company is vigorously defending all legal proceedings and believes litigation will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position, cash flows or results of operations.

## **10. STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION**

Our stock-based compensation program is a broad-based program designed to attract and retain personnel while also aligning participants' interests with the interests of the shareholders.

The 1991 Omnibus Incentive Plan (the Omnibus Plan) provides for compensatory awards consisting of (i) stock options or stock awards for up to 9,600,000 shares of common stock, (ii) stock appreciation rights, dividend equivalents, other stock-based awards in amounts up to 9,600,000 shares of common stock and (iii) performance awards consisting of any combination of the above. The Omnibus Plan is designed to provide an incentive to officers and certain other key employees and consultants by making available to them an opportunity to acquire a proprietary interest or to increase such interest in National Beverage. The number of shares or options which may be issued under stock-based awards to an individual is limited to 1,680,000 during any year. Awards may be granted for no cash consideration or such minimal cash consideration as may be required by law. Options generally have an exercise price equal to the fair market value of our common stock on the date of grant, vest over a five-year period and expire after ten years.

The Special Stock Option Plan provides for the issuance of stock options to purchase up to an aggregate of 3,600,000 shares of common stock. Options may be granted for such consideration as determined by the Board of Directors. The vesting schedule and exercise price of these options are tied to the recipient's ownership level of common stock and the terms generally allow for the reduction in exercise price upon each vesting period. Also, the Board of Directors authorized the issuance of options to purchase up to 100,000 shares of common stock to be issued at the direction of the Chairman.

The Key Employee Equity Partnership Program (KEEP Program) provides for the granting of stock options to purchase up to 480,000 shares of common stock to key employees, consultants, directors and officers. Participants who purchase shares of stock in the open market receive grants of stock options equal to 50% of the number of shares purchased, up to a maximum of 12,000 shares in any two-year period. Options under the KEEP Program are forfeited in the event of the sale of shares used to acquire such options. Options are granted at an initial exercise price of 60% of the purchase price paid for the shares acquired and the exercise price reduces to the stock par value at the end of the six-year vesting period.

Stock options are accounted for under the fair value method of accounting using a Black-Scholes valuation model to estimate the stock option fair value at date of grant. The fair value of stock options is amortized to expense over the vesting period. Stock options for 266,500 shares were granted in Fiscal 2021 and 18,000 shares in Fiscal 2019. No stock options were issued during Fiscal 2020. The weighted average Black-Scholes fair value assumptions for stock options granted are as follows: weighted average expected life of 7.2 years for Fiscal 2021 and 8.0 years for Fiscal 2019; weighted average expected volatility of 19.36% for Fiscal 2021 and 21.7% for Fiscal 2019; weighted average risk free interest rates of 3.85% for Fiscal 2021 and 2.6% for Fiscal 2019; and expected dividend yield of 1.3% for Fiscal 2021 and 1.6% for Fiscal 2019. The expected life of stock options was estimated based on historical experience. The expected volatility was estimated based on historical stock prices for a period consistent with the expected life of stock options. The risk free interest rate was based on the U.S. Treasury constant maturity interest rate whose term is consistent with the expected life of stock options.

The following is a summary of stock option activity for Fiscal 2021:

	Number of Shares	Price (a)
Options outstanding, beginning of year	389,090	\$ 7.01
Granted	266,500	31.27
Exercised	(69,490)	6.99
Cancelled	(25,000)	5.46
Options outstanding, end of year	<u>561,100</u>	<u>17.74</u>
Options exercisable, end of year	<u>285,700</u>	<u>7.46</u>

(a) Weighted average exercise price.

Stock-based compensation expense was \$462,000 for Fiscal 2021, \$126,000 for Fiscal 2020 and \$251,000 for Fiscal 2019.

The total intrinsic value for stock options exercised was \$1.9 million for Fiscal 2021, \$4.9 million for Fiscal 2020, and \$2.2 million for Fiscal 2019. Net cash proceeds from the exercise of stock options were \$491,000 for Fiscal 2021, \$740,000 for Fiscal 2020, and \$456,000 for Fiscal 2019. Stock based income tax benefits aggregated \$382,000 for Fiscal 2021, \$974,000 for Fiscal 2020, and \$443,000 for Fiscal 2019. The weighted average fair value for stock options granted was \$13.01 for Fiscal 2021.

As of May 1, 2021, unrecognized compensation expense related to the unvested portion of stock options was \$490,000, which is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 4.1 years. The weighted average remaining contractual term and the aggregate intrinsic value for options outstanding as of May 1, 2021 was 4.9 years and \$16.9 million, respectively. The weighted average remaining contractual term and the aggregate intrinsic value for options exercisable as of May 2, 2020 was 3.7 years and \$7.0 million, respectively.

## 11. PENSION PLANS

The Company contributes to certain pension plans under collective bargaining agreements and to a discretionary profit sharing plan. Annual contributions (including contributions to multi-employer plans reflected below) were \$3.7 million for Fiscal 2021, \$3.6 million for Fiscal 2020 and \$3.8 million for Fiscal 2019.

The Company participates in three multi-employer defined benefit pension plans with respect to certain collective bargaining agreements. If the Company chooses to stop participating in the multi-employer plan or if other employers choose to withdraw to the extent that a mass withdrawal occurs, the Company could be required to pay the plan a withdrawal liability based on the underfunded status of the plan.

Summarized below is certain information regarding the Company's participation in significant multi-employer pension plans including the financial improvement plan or rehabilitation plan status ("FIP/RP Status") and the zone status under the Pension Protection Act ("PPA"). The most recent PPA zone status available in Fiscal 2021 and Fiscal 2020 is for the plans' years ending December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

Pension Fund	PPA Zone Status		FIP/RP Status	Surcharge Imposed
	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020		
Central States, Southeast and Southwest Areas Pension Plan (EIN no. 36-6044243) (the "CSSS Fund")	Red	Red	Implemented	Yes
Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust Fund (EIN no. 91-6145047) (the "WCT Fund")	Green	Green	Not applicable	No

For the plan years ended December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2018, the Company was not listed in the Form 5500 Annual Returns as providing more than 5% of the total contributions for the above plans. The collective bargaining agreements for employees in the CSSS Fund and the WCT Fund expire on October 18, 2021 and May 14, 2021, respectively.

The Company's contributions for all multi-employer pension plans for the last three fiscal years are as follow:

<u>Pension Fund</u>	(In thousands)		
	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019
CSSS Fund	\$ 1,469	\$ 1,424	\$ 1,465
WCT Fund	746	799	769
Other multi-employer pension funds	166	185	222
Total	<u>\$ 2,381</u>	<u>\$ 2,408</u>	<u>\$ 2,456</u>

## 12. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Company enters into various agreements with suppliers for the purchase of raw materials, the terms of which may include variable or fixed pricing and minimum purchase quantities. As of May 1, 2021, the Company had purchase commitments for raw materials of \$20.0 million through 2023.

**13. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)**

	(In thousands, except per share amounts)			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
<b>Fiscal 2021</b>				
Net sales	\$ 293,367	\$ 271,809	\$ 245,931	\$ 261,103
Gross profit	117,218	108,049	95,664	100,685
Net income	51,164	47,164	36,687	39,131
Earnings per common share – basic	\$ .55	\$ .51	\$ .39	\$ .42
Earnings per common share – diluted	\$ .54	\$ .51	\$ .39	\$ .42
<b>Fiscal 2020</b>				
Net sales	\$ 263,568	\$ 251,611	\$ 222,814	\$ 262,401
Gross profit	96,574	92,814	82,095	98,657
Net income	34,542	32,654	26,563	36,213
Earnings per common share – basic	\$ .37	\$ .35	\$ .28	\$ .39
Earnings per common share – diluted	\$ .37	\$ .35	\$ .28	\$ .39

## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Shareholders and the Board of Directors of National Beverage Corp.

### Opinions on the Financial Statements and Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of National Beverage Corp. (the Company) as of May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020, and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended May 1, 2021, and the related notes (collectively, the financial statements). We also have audited the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of May 1, 2021, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in 2013.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended May 1, 2021, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of May 1, 2021, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in 2013.

### Basis for Opinions

The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements, 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 Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements and an opinion on the company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud, and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

Our audits of the financial statements included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

### **Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

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.

### **Critical Audit Matters**

The critical audit matters communicated below are matters arising from the current period audit of the financial statements that were communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that: (1) relate to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved our especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matters below, providing separate opinions on the critical audit matters or on the accounts or disclosures to which they relate.

### **Self-Insurance Accruals**

As described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company maintains self-insured and deductible programs for workers' compensation exposures. The Company accrues for known claims and estimated incurred but not reported claims not otherwise covered by insurance based on actuarial assumptions and historical claims experience. While a third party actuary is employed to advise the Company, estimating workers' compensation exposure is inherently uncertain, as estimates are generally derived using a variety of actuarial estimation techniques that are dependent upon assumptions and expectations about future events, many of which are difficult to quantify. As of May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020, other liabilities included accruals of \$5.9 million and \$5.5 million, respectively, for estimated non-current risk retention exposures, of which \$4.5 million and \$4.3 million was covered by insurance at May 1, 2021 and May 2, 2020, respectively.

We identified the evaluation of the Company's self-insurance accruals as a critical audit matter due to the significant judgments made by management in estimating the workers' compensation liability. Auditing management's judgments used in estimating the value of the workers' compensation liability involved a high degree of auditor judgment and increased audit effort, including the use of our actuarial specialist.

Our audit procedures related to the Company's self-insurance accrual assessment included the following, among others:

- We obtained an understanding of the relevant controls related to the Company's workers' compensation liability, and tested such controls for design and operating effectiveness, including controls related to management's review of the significant assumptions .
- We tested the underlying data, including historical claims and payroll data, which served as the basis for the assumptions used by the third party actuary in the actuarial analysis, to test that the inputs to the actuarial estimates were accurate and complete.
- We compared payments made in the current year for prior year claims to prior year recorded reserves.
- With the assistance of our actuarial specialist, we evaluated the propriety of the reserving techniques utilized for the workers' compensation exposures.

/s/ RSM US LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2006.

Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
June 30, 2021

**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 9A. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

**Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

As of the end of the period covered by this Annual Report on Form 10-K, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Company's management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our "disclosure controls and procedures" (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act)). Based upon that evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective to ensure information required to be disclosed by us in reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is (1) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms and (2) accumulated and communicated to our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the Exchange Act. Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Principal Financial Officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in Internal Control – Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission in 2013. Based on that evaluation, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of May 1, 2021.

Management recognizes that there are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of internal control. Accordingly, even effective internal control over financial reporting can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation. Further, because of changes in conditions, the effectiveness of internal control may vary over time.

RSM US LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the consolidated financial statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and, as part of their audit, has issued their report, included herein, on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

**Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended May 1, 2021 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

**ITEM 9B. OTHER INFORMATION**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 9C. DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS THAT PREVENT INSPECTIONS**

Not applicable.

**PART III**

**ITEM 10. DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The information required by Item 10 will be included under the captions “Election of Directors”, “Information as to Nominees and Other Directors”, “Information Regarding Meetings and Committees of the Board” and “Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance” in the Company’s 2021 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to the officers of the Registrant as of May 1, 2021:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Position with Company</u>
Nick A. Caporella <sup>(1)</sup>	85	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
Joseph G. Caporella <sup>(2)</sup>	60	President
George R. Bracken <sup>(3)</sup>	76	Executive Vice President – Finance

- (1) Mr. Nick A. Caporella has served as Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Director since the Company’s inception in 1985. Also, he serves as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Since 1992, Mr. Caporella’s services have been provided to the Company by Corporate Management Advisors, Inc., a company he owns.
- (2) Mr. Joseph G. Caporella has served as President since September 2002 and, prior to that, as Executive Vice President and Secretary since January 1991. Also, he has served as a Director since January 1987. Joseph G. Caporella is the son of Nick A. Caporella.
- (3) Mr. George R. Bracken has served as Executive Vice President - Finance since July 2012. Previously, he served as Senior Vice President – Finance from October 2000 to July 2012 and Vice President and Treasurer from October 1996 to October 2000. Since 1992, Mr. Bracken’s services have been provided to the Company by Corporate Management Advisors, Inc.

All officers serve until their successors are chosen and may be removed at any time by the Board of Directors. Officers are normally appointed each year at the first meeting of the Board of Directors after the annual meeting of shareholders.

**ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The information required by Item 11 will be included under the captions “Executive Compensation and Other Information” and “Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation” in the Company’s 2021 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS**

The information required by Item 12 will be included under the captions “Security Ownership” and “Equity Compensation Plan Information” in the Company’s 2021 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTION, AND DIRECTOR INDEPENDENCE**

The information required by Item 13 will be included under the captions “Certain Relationships and Related Party Transactions” and “Information Regarding Meetings and Committees of the Board” in the Company’s 2021 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**ITEM 14. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING FEES AND SERVICES**

The information required by Item 14 will be included under the caption “Independent Auditors” in the Company’s 2021 Proxy Statement and is incorporated herein by reference.

**PART IV**

**ITEM 15. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES**

(a) The following documents are filed as part of this report:		Page
1.	Financial Statements	
	<a href="#">Consolidated Balance Sheets</a>	24
	<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Income</a>	25
	<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income</a>	26
	<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Shareholders’ Equity</a>	27
	<a href="#">Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows</a>	28
	<a href="#">Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements</a>	29
	<a href="#">Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</a>	44
2.	Financial Statement Schedules	NA
3.	Exhibits	
	See Exhibit Index which follows.	

**ITEM 16. FORM 10-K SUMMARY**

Not applicable.

## EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
3.1	<a href="#">Restated Certificate of Incorporation(1)</a>
3.2	<a href="#">Amended and Restated By-Laws(2)</a>
3.3	<a href="#">Certificate of Designation of the Special Series D Preferred Stock of the Company(3)</a>
4	<a href="#">Description of the Registrant's Securities Registered Pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934(15)</a>
10.1	Management Agreement between the Company and Corporate Management Advisors, Inc.(4) *
10.2	National Beverage Corp. Investment and Profit Sharing Plan(5) *
10.3	National Beverage Corp. 1991 Omnibus Incentive Plan(4) *
10.4	National Beverage Corp. 1991 Stock Purchase Plan(4) *
10.5	Amendment No. 1 to the National Beverage Corp. Omnibus Incentive Plan(6) *
10.6	National Beverage Corp. Special Stock Option Plan(7) *
10.7	<a href="#">Amendment No. 2 to the National Beverage Corp. Omnibus Incentive Plan(8)_*</a>
10.8	<a href="#">National Beverage Corp. Key Employee Equity Partnership Program(8)*</a>
10.9	<a href="#">Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated June 30, 2008, between NewBevCo, Inc. and lender therein(9)</a>
10.10	<a href="#">Amendment to National Beverage Corp. Special Stock Option Plan(10)_*</a>
10.11	<a href="#">Amendment to National Beverage Corp. Key Employee Equity Partnership Program(10)*</a>
10.12	<a href="#">First Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated January 16, 2013, between NewBevCo, Inc. and lender therein(11)</a>
10.13	<a href="#">Second Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated July 7, 2015, between NewBevCo, Inc. and lender therein(12)</a>
10.14	<a href="#">Third Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated June 29, 2017, between NewBevCo, Inc. and lender therein(13)</a>

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
10.15	<a href="#">Credit Facility Amended Agreement dated October 28, 2020 between NewBevCo, Inc. and lender therein.(14)</a>
10.16	<a href="#">Fourth Amendment to Second Amended Credit Agreement dated October 30, 2020 between NewBevCo, Inc and lender therein.(14)</a>
21	<a href="#">Subsidiaries of Registrant.(16)</a>
23	<a href="#">Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.(16)</a>
31.1	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002(16)</a>
31.2	<a href="#">Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002(16)</a>
32.1	<a href="#">Certification of Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002(16)</a>
32.2	<a href="#">Certification of Principal Financial Officer pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002(16)</a>
101	The following financial information from National Beverage Corp.'s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 1, 2021 is formatted as Inline XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language): (i) Consolidated Balance Sheets; (ii) Consolidated Statements of Income; (iii) Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income; (iv) Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity; (v) Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows; and (vi) the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted as Inline XBRL and contained in Exhibit 101)

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\* Indicates management contract or compensatory plan or arrangement.

- (1) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Schedule 14C Information Statement dated June 26, 2018 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (2) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Form 8-K Current Report dated July 23, 2018 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (3) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Form 8-K Current Report dated January 31, 2013 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (4) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Amendment No. 1 to Form S-1 Registration Statement (File No. 33-38986) on July 26, 1991 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (5) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to the Form S-1 Registration Statement (File No. 33-38986) on February 19, 1991 and is incorporated herein by reference
- (6) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 27, 1996 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (7) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Registration Statement on Form S-8 (File No. 33-95308) on August 1, 1995 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (8) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 3, 1997 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (9) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended January 29, 2011 and is incorporated herein by reference.

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- (10) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended January 31, 2009 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (11) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended January 26, 2013 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (12) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended August 1, 2015 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (13) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended April 29, 2017 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (14) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the fiscal period ended January 30, 2021 and is incorporated herein by reference.
- (15) Previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended May 2, 2020 as is incorporated herein by reference.
- (16) Filed herewith

**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.

NATIONAL BEVERAGE CORP.

By: /s/ George R. Bracken  
George R. Bracken  
Executive Vice President – Finance  
(Principal Financial Officer)  
Date: June 30, 2021

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 indicated on June 30, 2021.

/s/ Nick A. Caporella  
Nick A. Caporella  
Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Cecil D. Conlee  
Cecil D. Conlee  
Director

/s/ Joseph G. Caporella  
Joseph G. Caporella  
President and Director

/s/ Samuel C. Hathorn, Jr.  
Samuel C. Hathorn, Jr.  
Director

/s/ George R. Bracken  
George R. Bracken  
Executive Vice President – Finance  
(Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ Stanley M. Sheridan  
Stanley M. Sheridan  
Director

## SIGNIFICANT SUBSIDIARIES OF REGISTRANT

<u>Name of Subsidiary</u>	<u>Jurisdiction of Incorporation</u>	<u>Percentage of Voting Stock Owned</u>
BevCo Sales, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Beverage Corporation International, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Big Shot Beverages, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Everfresh Beverages, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Faygo Beverages, Inc.	Michigan	100%
LaCroix Beverages, Inc.	Delaware	100%
National Beverage Vending Company	Delaware	100%
National Retail Brands, Inc.	Delaware	100%
NewBevCo, Inc.	Delaware	100%
PACO, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Shasta Beverages, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Shasta Beverages International, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Shasta Sales, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Shasta Sweetener Corp.	Delaware	100%
Shasta West, Inc.	Delaware	100%
Sundance Beverage Company	Delaware	100%

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement No. 333-97415 on Form S-8 of National Beverage Corp. of our report dated June 30, 2021, relating to the consolidated financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of National Beverage Corp., which appears in this Annual Report on Form 10-K of National Beverage Corp. for the year ended May 1, 2021.

/s/ RSM US LLP

Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
June 30, 2021

## CERTIFICATION

I, Nick A. Caporella, certify that:

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

Date: June 30, 2021

/s/ Nick A. Caporella

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Nick A. Caporella  
Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer

## CERTIFICATION

I, George R. Bracken, certify that:

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

Date: June 30, 2021

/s/ George R. Bracken

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George R. Bracken

Executive Vice President - Finance

(Principal Financial Officer)

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

In connection with the Annual Report of National Beverage Corp. (the Company) on Form 10-K for the period ended May 1, 2021 (the Report), I, Nick A. Caporella, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to my knowledge:

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

Date: June 30, 2021

/s/ Nick A. Caporella

Nick A. Caporella  
Chairman of the Board and  
Chief Executive Officer

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

In connection with the Annual Report of National Beverage Corp. (the Company) on Form 10-K for the period ended May 1, 2021 (the Report), I, George R. Bracken, Executive Vice President - Finance of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. section 1350, as adopted pursuant to section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that to my knowledge:

- (1) The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and
- (2) The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and result of operations of the Company.

Date: June 30, 2021

/s/ George R. Bracken

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George R. Bracken

Executive Vice President – Finance

(Principal Financial Officer)