



Bassett Announces Third Quarter 2009 Results of Operations

BASSETT, Va., Oct 8, 2009 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX News Network) -- Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. (Nasdaq:BSET) announced today its results of operations for its fiscal quarter ended August 29, 2009.

Sales for the quarter ended August 29, 2009 were \$57.7 million as compared to \$70.2 million for the quarter ended August 30, 2008, a decrease of 18%. Gross margins for the third quarter of 2009 and 2008 were 45.1% and 40.0%, respectively. The margin increase over 2008 results primarily from a greater mix of the Company's sales being through the retail segment. Selling, general and administrative expenses excluding bad debt and notes receivable valuation charges decreased \$2.2 million for the third quarter of 2009 as compared to 2008 primarily due to lower spending. The Company also recorded \$1.2 million of bad debt and notes valuation charges during the third quarter of 2009 as compared to \$4.1 million for the third quarter of 2008, a \$2.9 million decrease. The Company reported a net loss of \$3.4 million, or \$0.30 per share for the quarter ended August 29, 2009, as compared to a net loss of \$2.7 million, or \$0.23 per share, for the quarter ended August 30, 2008.

The loss for the quarter ended August 29, 2009 included unusual pretax charges of \$1.8 million associated with lease exit costs for two closed retail locations. The results for the quarter ended August 30, 2008 included two unusual pretax items consisting of a \$0.2 million impairment charge associated with the write-off of leasehold improvements for a closed store and \$0.6 million associated with lease exit costs for a closed store. Excluding these unusual items, the net loss for the quarters ended August 29, 2009 and August 30, 2008 would have been net losses of \$1.7 million and \$1.8 million, respectively. Please refer to the attached schedule which reconciles net loss as reported to net loss as adjusted.

"We continued to experience weak order demand during the June through August quarter, historically our slowest period of the year," said Robert H. Spilman Jr., president and chief executive officer. "Recognizing that the current environment will likely persist for some time, we are focused on cash management and improving our wholesale and retail operations. We have now generated positive operating cash flow for two consecutive quarters, and continuing this trend will be our primary objective until we can see tangible signs of an economic turnaround."

Wholesale Segment

Net sales for the wholesale segment were \$41.8 million for the third quarter of 2009 as compared to \$59.5 million for the third quarter of 2008, a decrease of 30%. Approximately 51% of wholesale shipments during the third quarter of 2009 were imported products compared to 53% for the third quarter of 2008. Gross margins for the wholesale segment were 30.3% for the third quarter of 2009 as compared to 29.7% for the third quarter of 2008. This increase is primarily due to lower material costs as a result of negotiated price decreases from our vendors in addition to lower freight costs. Wholesale SG&A excluding bad debt and notes receivable valuation charges decreased \$3.5 million during the third quarter of 2009 as compared to 2008 due primarily to lower sales and continued cost cutting measures. The Company recorded \$1.2 million of bad debt and notes receivable valuation charges for the third quarter of 2009 as compared to \$4.1 million for the third quarter of 2008. This significant decrease in charges is primarily due to the Company working diligently with its licensees to control increases in accounts receivable exposure.

"Prior to bad debt charges in the quarter, wholesale operating margins were 3.6% compared to 5.1% last year, despite a \$17.7 million sales decrease in the segment," Mr. Spilman further stated. "Upholstery margins improved slightly in the quarter while wood margins remained under pressure. For the first time ever, upholstery shipments outpaced wood shipments for the period. As previously discussed, we are concentrating on reducing wood inventory levels on our best sellers. To this end, wholesale wood inventory decreased by \$2.2 million in the quarter."

Retail Segment

During the nine month period ended August 29, 2009, the Company acquired an additional eight stores from its licensees, one of which was acquired during the third quarter of 2009. In addition, the Company closed four under-performing stores. Total Company-owned store count as of August 29, 2009 was 35, of which 26 were comparable stores (stores open longer than one year).

The total Company-owned store network had net sales of \$28.5 million for the third quarter 2009, as compared to \$24.0 million in the third quarter of 2008, an increase of 18.7%. Comparable store sales decreased 2.8%. These sales decreases have primarily resulted from the continued weak economic environment and corresponding weak consumer spending. Gross margins for the entire Company-owned fleet were essentially flat at 45.1% as compared to the third quarter of 2008. Gross margins as compared to the second quarter of 2009 decreased by 2.1 percentage points as the Company performed a fleet-wide

inventory reduction sale which resulted in lower gross margins. As a percentage of sales, SG&A decreased 4.6 percentage points to 52.1% due to continued cost containment efforts during the quarter. Total retail operating losses decreased 29% from \$2.9 million for the third quarter of 2008 to \$2.0 million for the third quarter of 2009. On a comparable store basis, retail operating losses were reduced by 33% to \$1.5 million, primarily due to cost containment efforts.

"We remain encouraged by our efforts to stem corporate retail losses as evidenced by further improvement in our comparable store operating performance," Mr. Spilman continued. "Despite our decision to reduce retail inventories in the quarter through a system-wide inventory reduction event, our 26 comparable stores reduced their aggregate loss by 33%. Furthermore, we believe that adjustments to our retail pricing strategy will further enhance corporate store results in future quarters."

Amended Revolving Credit Facility

The Company's revolving credit facility contains, among other provisions, certain defined financial requirements including a minimum level of Tangible Net Worth, as defined in the credit agreement. As disclosed in the Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 28, 2009, the Company began discussions with its lender during the second quarter to amend its credit facility, due to the fact the Company was in violation of that covenant as of February 28, 2009. The Company successfully obtained a waiver of the default and an amendment to the credit facility on October 6, 2009. The amendment provides for a variable interest rate of LIBOR plus 2.75%, with a 4.25% minimum rate, and resets the Tangible Net Worth requirement to a minimum of \$95.0 million for the remainder of fiscal 2009 and \$90.0 million for fiscal 2010. It decreases the Company's total facility from \$45.0 million to \$30.0 million. Borrowings under the facility, which matures November 30, 2010, totaled \$18.0 million and \$19.0 million at August 29, 2009, and November 29, 2008, respectively, and are secured by a pledge of certain marketable securities and substantially all of the Company's receivables and inventories. The Company has \$1.2 million available for borrowing under the facility, after deducting amounts for outstanding letters of credit and guarantees under the licensee loan program.

Balance Sheet and Cash Flow

The Company generated \$0.9 million in operating cash flow during the third quarter of 2009 through its continued cost cutting efforts. Cash used in operating activities for the first nine months of 2009 was \$1.8 million, as compared to \$12.5 million operating cash used during the first nine months of 2008, an 86% decrease. The net cash usage for the year is primarily due to the continued difficult environment at retail resulting in lower collections on accounts receivable. The Company increased its overall cash position for the nine months ended August 29, 2009 by \$13.4 million primarily through \$16.0 million of investment redemptions and \$2.8 million in dividends from the investment in the International Home Furnishings Center (IHFC), partially offset by the operating cash flow deficit, dividend payments of \$1.1 million and net payments on the Company's revolving credit facility of \$1.0 million.

In addition to the \$17.1 million of cash on-hand, the Company has investments of \$18.5 million, consisting of \$13.3 million in marketable securities and \$5.2 million in the Alternative Asset Fund. The Company expects to receive additional redemptions from the Alternative Asset Fund of approximately \$0.4 million over the remainder of the year. In addition, the Company expects to decrease its inventory levels over the next quarter through improved management and coordination with foreign suppliers. In anticipation of a debt refinancing for IHFC, it is likely that dividend distributions will decrease or be eliminated for the remainder of 2009. The Company does not believe that this will be materially detrimental to its overall liquidity. With the current level of cash on-hand coupled with the investment holdings and availability on the revolver, the Company believes it has sufficient liquidity to fund operations for the foreseeable future.

Completion of SEC Accounting Review

In July of 2009, the Company announced that it had received comment letters from the SEC as part of the Commission's triennial accounting review questioning, among other items, the Company's accounting policies and process related to its accounts and notes receivable reserves. As a result, the Company restated and reissued its Form 10-Q for the quarter ended February 28, 2009 and recently filed its response to the Commission's most recent comment letter. On October 8, 2009, the Company received a letter from the Commission informing the Company that there were no further comments.

About Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc.

Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc. (Nasdaq:BSET) is a leading manufacturer and marketer of high quality, mid-priced home furnishings. With approximately 105 Bassett stores, Bassett has leveraged its strong brand name in furniture into a network of corporate and licensed stores that focus on providing consumers with a friendly environment for buying furniture and accessories. The most significant growth opportunity for Bassett continues to be the Company's dedicated retail store program. Bassett's retail strategy includes affordable custom-built furniture that is ready for delivery in the home within 30 days. The stores also feature the latest on-trend furniture styles, more than 750 upholstery fabrics, free in-home design visits, and coordinated decorating accessories. For more information, visit the Company's website at bassettfurniture.com. (BSET-E)

Certain of the statements in this release, particularly those preceded by, followed by or including the words "believes,"

"expects," "anticipates," "intends," "should," "estimates," or similar expressions, or those relating to or anticipating financial results for periods beyond the end of the third quarter of fiscal 2009, constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. For those statements, Bassett claims the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In many cases, Bassett cannot predict what factors would cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements. Expectations included in the forward-looking statements are based on preliminary information as well as certain assumptions which management believes to be reasonable at this time. The following important factors affect Bassett and could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in the forward-looking statements: the effects of national and global economic or other conditions and future events on the retail demand for home furnishings and the ability of Bassett's customers and consumers to obtain credit; the delays or difficulties in converting some of Bassett's non-operating assets to cash; and the economic, competitive, governmental and other factors identified in Bassett's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Any forward-looking statement that Bassett makes speaks only as of the date of such statement, and Bassett undertakes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Comparisons of results for current and any prior periods are not intended to express any future trends or indication of future performance, unless expressed as such, and should only be viewed as historical data.

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations - Unaudited
(In thousands, except for per share data)

| | 13 Weeks Ended August 29, 2009 | | 13 Weeks Ended August 30, 2008 | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Amount | Percent of Net Sales | Amount | Percent of Net Sales |
| Net sales | \$ 57,670 | 100.0% | \$ 70,159 | 100.0% |
| Cost of sales | 31,684 | 54.9% | 42,105 | 60.0% |
| Gross profit | 25,986 | 45.1% | 28,054 | 40.0% |
| Selling, general and administrative expense excluding bad debt and notes receivable valuation charges | 25,965 | 45.0% | 28,196 | 40.2% |
| Bad debt and notes receivable valuation charges | 1,230 | 2.1% | 4,051 | 5.8% |
| Proxy defense costs | -- | 0.0% | -- | 0.0% |
| Restructuring, asset impairment charges and unusual gain, net | -- | 0.0% | 240 | 0.3% |
| Lease exit costs | 1,777 | 3.1% | 640 | 0.9% |
| Loss from operations | (2,986) | -5.2% | (5,073) | -7.2% |
| Other loss, net | (846) | -1.5% | (745) | -1.1% |
| Loss before income taxes | (3,832) | -6.6% | (5,818) | -8.3% |
| Income tax benefit | 386 | 0.7% | 3,166 | 4.5% |
| Net loss | \$ (3,446) | -6.0% | \$ (2,652) | -3.8% |

| | 39 Weeks Ended August 29, 2009 | | 40 Weeks Ended August 30, 2008 | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| | Percent of Amount Net Sales | | Percent of Amount Net Sales | |
| Basic loss per share: | \$ (0.30) | | \$ (0.23) | |
| Diluted loss per share: | \$ (0.30) | | \$ (0.23) | |
| Net sales | \$173,199 | 100.0% | \$226,620 | 100.0% |
| Cost of sales | 98,037 | 56.6% | 136,421 | 60.2% |
| Gross profit | 75,162 | 43.4% | 90,199 | 39.8% |
| Selling, general and administrative expense excluding bad debt and notes receivable valuation charges | 78,932 | 45.6% | 89,450 | 39.5% |
| Bad debt and notes receivable valuation charges | 12,971 | 7.5% | 6,059 | 2.7% |
| Proxy defense costs | -- | 0.0% | 1,418 | 0.6% |
| Restructuring, asset impairment charges and unusual gain, net | 1,388 | 0.8% | (718) | -0.3% |
| Lease exit costs | 2,062 | 1.2% | 640 | 0.3% |
| Loss from operations | (20,191) | -11.7% | (6,650) | -2.9% |
| Other loss, net | (5,330) | -3.1% | (460) | -0.2% |
| Loss before income taxes | (25,521) | -14.7% | (7,110) | -3.1% |
| Income tax benefit | 256 | 0.1% | 4,582 | 2.0% |
| Net loss | \$(25,265) | -14.6% | \$(2,528) | -1.1% |
| Basic loss per share: | \$ (2.21) | | \$ (0.22) | |
| Diluted loss per share: | \$ (2.21) | | \$ (0.22) | |

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets
(In thousands)

| | (Unaudited) | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Aug. 29, 2009 | Nov. 29, 2008 |
| Assets | | |
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Current assets | | |

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 17,146 | \$ 3,777 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 35,786 | 40,793 |
| Inventories | 37,640 | 42,293 |
| Other current assets | 8,997 | 13,628 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total current assets | 99,569 | 100,491 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Property and equipment | | |
| Cost | 153,263 | 156,068 |
| Less accumulated depreciation | 100,392 | 98,913 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Property and equipment, net | 52,871 | 57,155 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Investments | 18,514 | 35,060 |
| Retail real estate | 29,154 | 29,588 |
| Notes receivable, net | 9,035 | 13,608 |
| Other | 9,475 | 9,140 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 66,178 | 87,396 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total assets | \$218,618 | \$245,042 |
| | ===== | ===== |
| Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity | | |
| ----- | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable | \$ 15,817 | \$ 18,747 |
| Accrued compensation and benefits | 5,218 | 4,618 |
| Customer deposits | 5,642 | 6,725 |
| Dividends payable | -- | 1,142 |
| Other accrued liabilities | 12,541 | 10,977 |
| Current portion of real estate notes payable | 8,570 | 812 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total current liabilities | 47,788 | 43,021 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Long-term liabilities | | |
| Post employment benefit obligations | 12,244 | 12,829 |
| Bank debt | 18,000 | 19,000 |
| Real estate notes payable | 12,989 | 21,346 |
| Distributions in excess of affiliate earnings | 11,535 | 11,910 |
| Other long-term liabilities | 8,902 | 6,757 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 63,670 | 71,842 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Commitments and Contingencies | | |
| Stockholders' equity | | |
| Common stock | 57,223 | 57,102 |
| Retained earnings | 47,895 | 73,160 |
| Additional paid-in-capital | 437 | 346 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | 1,605 | (429) |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total stockholders' equity | 107,160 | 130,179 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Total liabilities and stockholders' equity | \$218,618 | \$245,042 |
| | ===== | ===== |

(In thousands)

| | 39 Weeks Ended Aug. 29, 2009 | 40 Weeks Ended Aug. 30, 2008 |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | ----- | ----- |
| Operating activities: | | |
| Net loss | \$(25,265) | \$ (2,528) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash used in operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 4,966 | 5,732 |
| Equity in undistributed income of investments and unconsolidated affiliated companies | (1,582) | (2,450) |
| Provision for restructuring, asset impairment charges and unusual gain, net | 1,388 | (718) |
| Impairment of retail real estate | -- | 499 |
| Lease exit costs | 2,062 | 640 |
| Provision for lease and loan guarantees | 2,428 | (194) |
| Provision for losses on accounts and notes receivable | 12,971 | 6,059 |
| Other than temporary impairment of investments | 1,255 | 54 |
| Realized income from investments | (607) | (980) |
| Deferred income taxes | -- | (3,478) |
| Payment to terminate lease | (400) | -- |
| Other, net | (303) | 277 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities | | |
| Accounts receivable | (5,701) | (9,789) |
| Inventories | 6,761 | 8,436 |
| Other current assets | 4,915 | (1,261) |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (4,704) | (12,816) |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Net cash used in operating activities | (1,816) | (12,517) |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Investing activities: | | |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (854) | (3,006) |
| Purchases of retail real estate | (2) | (630) |
| Proceeds from sales of property and equipment | 129 | 2,205 |
| Acquisition of retail licensee stores, net of cash acquired | (481) | (216) |
| Proceeds from sales of investments | 22,310 | 31,829 |
| Purchases of investments | (6,295) | (4,212) |
| Dividends from affiliates | 2,909 | 6,091 |
| Net cash received on licensee notes | 515 | 790 |
| Other, net | 248 | 26 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Net cash provided by investing activities | 18,479 | 32,877 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Financing activities: | | |
| Net (repayments) borrowings under revolving credit facility | (1,000) | 2,000 |
| Repayments of real estate notes payable | (593) | (590) |
| Issuance of common stock | 72 | 123 |
| Repurchases of common stock | (75) | (3,622) |
| Cash dividends | (1,142) | (16,087) |
| Other | (556) | (150) |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (3,294) | (18,326) |
| | ----- | ----- |

| | | |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | 13,369 | 2,034 |
| Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of period | 3,777 | 3,538 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Cash and cash equivalents - end of period | \$ 17,146 | \$ 5,572 |
| | ===== | ===== |

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
Segment Information - Unaudited
(In thousands)

| | 13 Weeks Ended Aug. 29, 2009 | 13 Weeks Ended Aug. 30, 2008 | 39 Weeks Ended Aug. 29, 2009 | 40 Weeks Ended Aug. 30, 2008 |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Net Sales | | | | |
| Wholesale | \$ 41,771 (a) | \$ 59,466 (a) | \$134,731 (a) | \$190,766 (a) |
| Retail | 28,484 | 24,004 | 77,887 | 74,529 |
| Inter-company elimination | (12,585) | (13,311) | (39,419) | (38,675) |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Consolidated | \$ 57,670 | \$ 70,159 | \$173,199 | \$226,620 |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |
| Operating Income (loss) | | | | |
| Wholesale | \$ 290 (b) | \$ (995) (b) | \$ (10,440) (b) | \$ 2,559 (b) |
| Retail | (1,985) | (2,807) | (6,652) | (7,222) |
| Inter-company elimination | 486 | (391) | 351 | (647) |
| Proxy defense costs | -- | -- | -- | (1,418) |
| Restructuring, asset impair- ment charges and unusual gain, net | -- | (240) | (1,388) | 718 |
| Lease exit costs | (1,777) | (640) | (2,062) | (640) |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| Consolidated | \$ (2,986) | \$ (5,073) | \$ (20,191) | \$ (6,650) |
| | ===== | ===== | ===== | ===== |

(a) Excludes wholesale shipments of \$1,467 and \$6,975 for the 13 and 39 weeks ended August 29, 2009, respectively, for dealers where collectibility is not reasonably assured at time of shipment. There were no such adjustments for the 13 and 40 weeks ended August 30, 2008.

(b) Includes bad debt and notes receivable valuation charges as follows:

| | Aug. 29, 2009 | Aug. 30, 2008 |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | ----- | ----- |
| Quarter ended | \$ 1,230 | \$ 4,051 |
| Nine months ended (c) | 12,971 | 6,059 |

(c) The 2009 and 2008 periods contain 39 weeks and 40 weeks, respectively.

BASSETT FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
 Reconciliation of Net Loss as Reported to Net Loss as
 Adjusted (Unaudited)
 (In thousands, except for per share data)

| | 13 Weeks Ended Aug. 29, 2009 | Per Share | 13 Weeks Ended Aug. 30, 2008 | Per Share |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Net loss as reported | \$ (3,446) | \$ (0.30) | \$ (2,652) | \$ (0.23) |
| Proxy defense cost | -- | | -- | -- |
| Restructuring, asset impairment charges and unusual gains, net | -- | -- | 146 | 0.01 |
| Lease exit costs | 1,777 | 0.16 | 390 | 0.03 |
| Net loss as adjusted | \$ (1,669) | \$ (0.14) | \$ (2,116) | \$ (0.19) |

| | 39 Weeks Ended Aug. 29, 2009 | Per Share | 40 Weeks Ended Aug. 29, 2008 | Per Share |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Net loss as reported | \$(25,265) | \$ (2.21) | \$ (2,528) | \$ (0.22) |
| Proxy defense cost | -- | | 865 | 0.07 |
| Restructuring, asset impairment charges and unusual gains, net | 1,388 | 0.12 | (438) | (0.04) |
| Lease exit costs | 2,062 | 0.18 | 390 | 0.03 |
| Net loss as adjusted | \$(21,815) | \$ (1.91) | \$ (1,711) | \$ (0.16) |

The Company has included the "as adjusted" information because it uses, and believes that others may use, such information in comparing the Company's operating results from period to period. However, the items excluded in determining the "as adjusted" information are significant components in understanding and assessing the Company's overall financial performance for the periods covered. The 2008 amounts are net of tax of 39%. Current year numbers do not reflect a tax benefit, as we have reported losses during the first nine months of 2009 and remain in this cumulative loss position. As such, we recorded no tax benefits on the losses generated during the quarter and year-to-date periods ended August 29, 2009.

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SOURCE: Bassett Furniture Industries, Inc.

CONTACT: Bassett Furniture
 Industries, Inc.
 Investors
 J. Michael Daniel, Corporate Controller & Interim CFO
 (276) 629-6614
 Media
 Jay S. Moore, Director, Communications
 (276) 629-6450

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