



The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. Announces August Sales

YORK, Pa., Sep 03, 2009 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- **The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. (NASDAQ: BONT)** today announced comparable store sales for the four weeks ended August 29, 2009 decreased 5.1% compared with the prior year period. Total sales for the four weeks decreased 4.8% to \$197.0 million compared with \$207.1 million for the prior year period.

Year-to-date comparable store sales decreased 8.7%. Year-to-date total sales decreased 8.2% to \$1,450.8 million compared with \$1,580.7 million for the same period last year.

Tony Buccina, Vice Chairman and President - Merchandising, commented, "We were pleased with our August comparable store sales performance, which exceeded our expectations. Sales of our private brand merchandise and expanded penetration of our incredible value program were strong contributors to our performance. We saw significant growth in our eCommerce business as we continued to make enhancements to our website. The best performing merchandise categories were moderate missy and special sizes sportswear, fashion accessories and ladies', men's and children's outerwear. Our weakest performing merchandise categories were furniture and hard home. We continue to effectively manage our inventories, resulting in a reduction in comparable store inventories in excess of 8% and fresher inventories as we enter September."

Mr. Buccina continued, "We believe the Labor Day weekend shift from August last year to September this year will result in a later back-to-school business. Our children's, juniors, and young men's sales improved significantly in the last week of August versus earlier in the month, especially denim."

Keith Plowman, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, stated, "We ended August with excess borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility of approximately \$166 million, well above the required minimum availability of \$75 million."

The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc. operates 280 stores, including 12 furniture galleries, in 23 states in the Northeast, Midwest and upper Great Plains under the Bon-Ton, Bergner's, Boston Store, Carson Pirie Scott, Elder-Beerman, Herberger's and Younkers nameplates and, in the Detroit, Michigan area, under the Parisian nameplate. The stores offer a broad assortment of brand-name fashion apparel and accessories for women, men and children, as well as cosmetics and home furnishings. For further information, please visit the investor relations section of the Company's website at <http://investors.bonton.com>.

Certain information included in this press release contains statements that are forward-looking within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements, which may be identified by words such as "may," "could," "will," "plan," "expect," "anticipate," "estimate," "project," "intend" or other similar expressions, involve important risks and uncertainties that could significantly affect results in the future and, accordingly, such results may differ from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of the Company. Factors that could cause such differences include, but are not limited to, risks related to retail businesses generally; a significant and prolonged deterioration of general economic conditions which could negatively impact the Company, including the potential write-down of the current valuation of intangible assets and deferred taxes; changes in the terms of the Company's proprietary credit card program, potential increase in pension obligations; consumer spending patterns, debt levels, and the availability and cost of consumer credit; additional competition from existing and new competitors; inflation; changes in the costs of fuel and other energy and transportation costs; weather conditions that could negatively impact sales; uncertainties associated with expanding or remodeling existing stores; the ability to attract and retain qualified management; the dependence upon relationships with vendors and their factors; a security breach; the ability to reduce SG&A expenses; the incurrence of unplanned capital expenditures; the ability to realize the expected benefits from our planned changes in operating structure and the ability to obtain financing for working capital, capital expenditures and general corporate purposes. Additional factors that could cause the Company's actual results to differ from those contained in these forward-looking statements are discussed in greater detail under Item 1A of the Company's Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SOURCE: The Bon-Ton Stores, Inc.

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