



UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

- Annual Report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 27, 2020

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: 0-2166050

**PAPA JOHN'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)  
**2002 Papa John's Boulevard**  
**Louisville, Kentucky**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**61-1203323**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**40299-2367**  
(Zip Code)

**(502) 261-7272**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

(Title of Each Class)	Trading Symbol(s)	(Name of each exchange on which registered)
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	PZZA	The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files). 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 Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the common stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant, computed by reference to the closing sale price on The NASDAQ Stock Market as of the last business day of the Registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, June 28, 2020, was \$2,554,281,121.

As of February 17, 2021, there were 32,928,113 shares of the Registrant's common stock outstanding.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

Portions of the Registrant's Proxy Statement for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held April 27, 2021 are incorporated by reference into Part III of this annual report where indicated.

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## **PART I**

### **Item 1. Business**

#### **General**

Papa John's International, Inc., a Delaware corporation (referred to as the "Company", "Papa John's" or in the first person notations of "we", "us" and "our"), operates and franchises pizza delivery and carryout restaurants and, in certain international markets, dine-in and delivery restaurants under the trademark "Papa John's". Papa John's began operations in 1984. At December 27, 2020, there were 5,400 Papa John's restaurants in operation, consisting of 588 Company-owned and 4,812 franchised restaurants operating in 48 countries and territories. Our Company-owned restaurants include 188 restaurants operated under four joint venture arrangements. All of the 2,111 international restaurants are franchised.

#### **Strategy**

We are committed to delivering on our brand promise "BETTER INGREDIENTS. BETTER PIZZA.®" and a business strategy designed to drive sustainable long-term, profitable growth.

We believe that using high quality ingredients leads to superior quality pizzas. Our original crust pizza dough is made from six simple ingredients and is fresh, never frozen. We also top our pizzas with real cheese made from mozzarella, pizza sauce made with vine-ripened tomatoes, and meat free of fillers. Our marketing and menu strategies emphasize the quality of our ingredients and our new product innovations to accelerate sales. Our menu innovations in 2020 included Garlic Parmesan Crust, toasted handheld "Papadias" flatbread-style sandwiches, and Jalapeno Popper Rolls, followed by Epic Stuffed Crust Pizza in the first quarter of 2021. New product innovations are designed to increase sales without adding costs or significant operational complexity to our restaurants.

We utilize technology to deliver a better customer experience, improve operational efficiencies and inform our decision-making. Our loyalty and one-to-one marketing platforms help us retain loyal customers and attract new ones. We also partner with three of the four top domestic delivery aggregators to meet customer demand for our products. The novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") pandemic has accelerated customer demand for our products through alternate delivery channels, and these changes have enabled us to meet customer demand during the pandemic, especially during peak times when our delivery teams are working at full capacity.

We care about the health and safety of our team members and customers. The Company has taken steps to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing extra health and safety measures across our business, including No Contact Delivery and enhanced cleaning and sanitization measures. We offered virtual doctor's visits for team members and paid special bonuses to many of our front-line employees in addition to existing benefits such as no-cost mental health support and affordable health plan options.

We continue to expand our footprint, both domestically and internationally. Our growth is dependent on maintaining a strong franchise system and improving unit economics. We seek to attract and retain franchisees with experience in restaurant or retail operations and with the financial resources and management capability to open single or multiple locations. While each Papa John's franchisee manages and operates its own restaurants and business, we devote significant resources to providing franchisees with assistance in restaurant operations, quality assurance, technology, training, marketing, site selection and restaurant design. The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted our ability to open stores, both domestically and internationally, but we have expended additional resources to drive our development efforts when the pandemic subsides. We expect overall unit growth to come increasingly from international markets.

Our success depends on our ability to recruit, motivate and retain a highly qualified workforce in an intensely competitive environment. We believe that increasing diversity in our workforce will also help us drive innovation that reflects and resonates with the increasing diversity of our customers domestically and globally.

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**Segment Overview**

Papa John's has defined four reportable segments: Domestic Company-owned restaurants, North America commissaries (Quality Control Centers), North America franchising and International operations.

*Domestic Company-owned Restaurants*

The Domestic Company-owned restaurant segment consists of the operations of all domestic Company-owned restaurants ("domestic" is defined as the contiguous United States) and derives its revenues principally from retail sales of pizza, "Papadias", which are flatbread-style sandwiches, and side items, including breadsticks, cheesesticks, chicken poppers and wings, dessert items and canned or bottled beverages.

Of the total 3,289 North American restaurants open as of December 27, 2020, 588 units, or approximately 18%, were Company-owned. In 2020, the 579 domestic Company-owned restaurants included in the full year's comparable restaurant base generated average annual unit sales of \$1.2 million. We are committed to maintaining sound restaurant unit economics.

Operating Company-owned restaurants allows us to improve operations, training, marketing and quality standards for the benefit of the entire system.

*North America commissary*

The North America commissary segment comprises 11 full-service regional dough production and distribution Quality Control Centers ("QC Centers") in the United States ("U.S."), which supply pizza sauce, dough, food products, paper products, smallwares and cleaning supplies twice weekly to each traditional restaurant served. This system enables us to monitor and control product quality and consistency while lowering food and other costs. We also have one QC Center in Canada, which produces and distributes fresh dough. We evaluate the QC Center system capacity in relation to existing restaurants' volumes and planned restaurant growth, and facilities are developed or upgraded as operational or economic conditions warrant. To ensure consistent food quality, each domestic franchisee is required to purchase dough and pizza sauce from our QC Centers and to purchase all other supplies from our QC Centers or other approved suppliers.

*North America franchising*

The North America franchising segment consists of our franchise sales and support activities and derives its revenues from the sale of franchise and development rights and the collection of royalties from our franchisees located in the United States and Canada. Our North American franchised restaurants, which included 2,377 restaurants in the full year's comparable base for 2020, generated average annual unit sales of \$1.0 million. These sales, while not included in the Company's revenues, contribute to our royalty revenues, franchisee marketing fund contributions, and commissary revenue.

*International*

The International segment principally consists of distribution sales to franchised Papa John's restaurants located in the United Kingdom ("UK") and our franchise sales and support activities, which derive revenues from sales of franchise and development rights and the collection of royalties from our international franchisees. International franchisees are defined as all franchise operations outside of the United States and Canada. As of December 27, 2020, there were 2,111 international restaurants, all of which are franchised. The Company currently operates one international QC Center, which is in the UK. Other QC Centers outside the U.S. are operated by franchisees pursuant to license agreements or by other third parties.

*All others*

All other business units that do not meet the quantitative thresholds for determining reportable segments, which are not operating segments, we refer to as "all others," which consists of operations that derive revenues from the sale, principally

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to Company-owned and franchised restaurants, of printing and promotional items, franchise contributions to marketing funds and information systems and related services used in restaurant operations, including our point-of-sale system, online and other technology-based ordering platforms.

See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and “Note 23” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for financial information about our segments.

### Development

At December 27, 2020, there were 5,400 Papa John’s restaurants operating in 48 countries and territories, as follows:

	<b>Domestic Company-owned</b>	<b>Franchised North America</b>	<b>Total North America</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>System-wide</b>
Beginning - December 29, 2019	598	2,690	3,288	2,107	5,395
Opened	2	62	64	156	220
Closed	(12)	(51)	(63)	(152)	(215)
Ending - December 27, 2020	588	2,701	3,289	2,111	5,400
Net unit growth (decline) - 2020	(10)	11	1	4	5

Although most of our domestic Company-owned markets are well-penetrated, our Company-owned restaurant growth strategy is to continue to open domestic restaurants in existing markets as appropriate, thereby increasing consumer awareness and enabling us to take advantage of operational and marketing scale efficiencies. Our experience in developing markets indicates that market penetration through the opening of multiple restaurants in a particular market results in increased average restaurant sales in that market over time. We have co-developed domestic markets with some franchisees or divided markets among franchisees and will continue to use market co-development in the future, where appropriate.

As of December 27, 2020, we have development agreements with our franchisees for approximately 210 additional North America restaurants, the majority of which are committed to open over the next two years, and 1,250 additional international franchised restaurants, the majority of which are scheduled to open over the next six years.

### Franchise Program

We continue to attract qualified and experienced franchisees, whom we consider to be a vital part of our system’s continued growth. We believe our relationship with our franchisees is fundamental to the performance of our brand and we strive to maintain a collaborative relationship with our franchisees. Franchisees are approved on the basis of the applicant’s business background, restaurant operating experience and financial resources.

*North America Development and Franchise Agreements.* We enter into development agreements with our franchisees in North America for the opening of a specified number of restaurants within a defined period of time and specified geographic area. The franchise agreement is generally executed once a franchisee secures a location. Our current standard franchise agreement requires the franchisee to pay a royalty fee of 5% of sales, and the majority of our existing franchised restaurants have a 5% contractual royalty rate in effect. Incentives offered from time to time, including new store incentives, will reduce the contractual royalty rate paid. We provided financial assistance for traditional North America franchisees in 2018, 2019 and 2020 in the form of lower royalties, royalty-based service incentives, targeted relief as well as additional contributions to Papa John’s Marketing Fund (“PJMF”).

Over the past several years, we have offered various development incentive programs for domestic franchisees to accelerate unit openings. Such incentives included the following for 2020 traditional openings: (1) waiver of all or part of the standard one-time franchise fee; (2) waiver of all or part of the 5% royalty fee for a period of time; (3) credit for new store equipment; and (4) credit to be applied toward a future food purchase, under certain circumstances. We believe development incentive programs have accelerated unit openings, and we expect to continue to utilize such development incentives.

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Substantially all existing franchise agreements have an initial 10-year term with a 10-year renewal option. We have the right to terminate a franchise agreement for a variety of reasons, including a franchisee's failure to make payments when due or failure to adhere to our operational policies and standards. Many state franchise laws limit our ability as a franchisor to terminate or refuse to renew a franchise.

*International Development and Franchise Agreements.* In international markets, we have either a development agreement or a master franchise agreement with a franchisee for the opening of a specified number of restaurants within a defined period of time and specified geographic area. Under a master franchise agreement, the franchisee has the right to sub-franchise a portion of the development to one or more sub-franchisees approved by us.

Our current standard international master franchise and development agreements provide for payment to us of a royalty fee of 5% of sales. For international markets with sub-franchise agreements, the effective sub-franchise royalty received by the Company is generally 3% of sales and the master franchisee generally receives a royalty of 2% of sales. The remaining terms applicable to the operation of individual restaurants are substantially equivalent to the terms of our domestic franchise agreement. Development agreements will be negotiated at other-than-standard terms for fees and royalties, and we may offer various development and royalty incentives to help drive net unit growth and results.

*Franchise Operations.* All franchisees are required to operate their Papa John's restaurants in compliance with our policies, standards and specifications, including matters such as menu items, ingredients, and restaurant design. Franchisees have full discretion in human resource practices, and generally have full discretion to determine the prices to be charged to customers, but we generally have the authority to set maximum price points for nationally advertised promotions.

*Franchisee Loans.* Selected domestic and international franchisees have borrowed funds from us, principally for the purchase of restaurants from us or other franchisees or, in certain international markets, for construction and development of new restaurants. Loans made to franchisees can bear interest at fixed or floating rates and in most cases are secured by the fixtures, equipment and signage of the restaurant and/or are guaranteed by the franchise owners. At December 27, 2020, net loans outstanding totaled \$47.9 million. See "Note 2" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information.

**Marketing Programs**

Our domestic marketing strategy consists of both national and local components. Our national strategy includes national advertising via television, print, direct mail, digital, mobile marketing and social media channels. Our digital marketing activities have increased significantly over the past several years in response to increasing customer use of online and mobile technology. Local advertising programs include television, radio, print, direct mail, store-to-door flyers, digital, mobile marketing and local social media channels.

Domestic Company-owned and franchised Papa John's restaurants within a defined market may be required to join an area advertising cooperative ("Co-op"). Each member restaurant contributes a percentage of sales to the Co-op for market-wide programs, such as television, radio, digital and print advertising, and sports sponsorships. The rate of contribution and uses of the monies collected are determined by a majority vote of the Co-op's members.

The restaurant-level and Co-op marketing efforts are supported by media, print, digital and electronic advertising materials that are produced by PJMF, our national marketing fund. PJMF is a consolidated nonstock corporation, designed to operate at break-even for the purpose of designing and administering advertising and promotional programs for all participating domestic restaurants. PJMF produces and buys air time for Papa John's national television commercials and advertises the Company's products through digital media including banner advertising, paid search-engine advertising, mobile marketing, social media advertising and marketing, text messaging, and email. PJMF also engages in other brand-building activities, such as consumer research and public relations activities. Domestic Company-owned and franchised Papa John's restaurants are required to contribute a certain minimum percentage of sales to PJMF.

In international markets, our marketing focuses on reaching customers who live or work within a small radius of a Papa John's restaurant. Our international markets use a combination of advertising strategies, including television, radio, print, digital, mobile marketing and local social media depending on the size of the local market.

## **Human Capital**

Our team members are critical to our success. As of December 27, 2020, we employed approximately 16,700 persons, of whom approximately 14,200 were team members at Company-owned restaurants, approximately 700 were management personnel at Company-owned restaurants, approximately 700 were corporate personnel and approximately 1,100 were QC Center and our print and promotions subsidiary personnel. Most restaurant team members work part-time and are paid on an hourly basis.

Our franchisees are independent business owners, so their employees are not our employees and therefore are not included in our employee count. We estimate the total number of persons in Papa John's system, including our team members, franchisees and the team members of franchisees, was approximately 130,000 as of December 27, 2020.

### *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*

Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is rooted in our belief that having a Papa John's family that fully reflects and celebrates the global nature of our brand is the right way to do business.

We are building a culture of leaders who believe in inclusivity, diversity and winning. We're implementing initiatives to diversify our workforce and leadership pipeline, embed policies and practices that ensure fairness and instill and reward behaviors across the organization that foster belonging and increase employee engagement. Out of the 11 members of our Executive Leadership Team, four are female, one is Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer or Questioning ("LGBTQ") and two are Black. We have also initiated multiple corporate initiatives over the past several years. Some examples are our affordable healthcare plans and free virtual healthcare visits available to all part-time and full-time team members; the launch of The Papa John's Foundation for Building Community; our inaugural Day of Service with Boys and Girls Clubs of America; and the creation of eight employee resource affinity groups.

### *Talent Attraction, Retention and Development*

To help our team members succeed in their roles and to ensure consistent operational execution, we emphasize continuous training and development opportunities, including providing innovative tools and materials for the operational training and development of team members. Operations personnel complete our management training program and ongoing development programs, including multi-unit training, in which instruction is given on all aspects of our systems and operations. In addition, to further support our team members' development, we have established our Dough & Degrees program, which allows our team members to earn a college degree for free or at a reduced tuition in partnership with Purdue University Global and the University of Maryland Global Campus. We also offer a tuition reimbursement program that provides another opportunity for our team members to advance their careers. We also previously announced the planned 2021 opening of an office in Atlanta, Georgia to tap into the diverse, deep talent pool in the region.

## **Workplace Health and Safety**

As part of the Company's enterprise-wide safety management system, we invest in training, technology and people to protect both our customers and team members. All Papa John's team members, from those at our corporate office to those working in our warehouses and restaurants, receive annual safety training based on the requirements of their roles. Both QC Centers and restaurant operations undergo annual safety audits, as well as random safety checks by regional safety managers and field safety coordinators.

We have also taken steps to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our team members and our customers by implementing extra health and safety measures across our business, including No Contact Delivery and enhanced cleaning and sanitization measures.

## **Industry and Competition**

The United States Quick Service Restaurant pizza (“QSR Pizza”) industry is mature and highly competitive with respect to price, service, location, food quality, customer loyalty programs and product innovation. The QSR Pizza category is largely fragmented and competitors include international, national and regional chains, as well as a large number of local independent pizza operators, any of which can utilize a growing number of food delivery services. Some of our competitors have been in existence for substantially longer periods than Papa John’s, have substantially greater resources than Papa John’s and can have higher levels of restaurant penetration and stronger, more developed brand awareness in markets where we compete. Competition from delivery aggregators and other food delivery concepts continues to increase both domestically and internationally.

With respect to the sale of franchises, we compete with many franchisors of restaurants and other business concepts. There is also active competition for management personnel, drivers and hourly team members, and attractive commercial real estate sites suitable for Papa John’s restaurants.

## **Government Regulation**

We, along with our franchisees, are subject to various federal, state, local and international laws affecting the operation of our respective businesses, including laws and regulations related to our marketing and advertising as well as the preparation and sale of food, food safety and menu labeling. Each Papa John’s restaurant is subject to licensing and regulation by a number of governmental authorities, which include zoning, health, safety, sanitation, building and fire agencies in the state or municipality in which the restaurant is located. Difficulties in obtaining, or the failure to obtain, required licenses or approvals could delay or prevent the opening of a new restaurant in a particular area. Our QC Centers are licensed and subject to regulation by state and local health and fire codes, and the operation of our trucks is subject to federal and state transportation regulations. We are also subject to federal and state environmental regulations. In addition, our domestic operations are subject to various federal and state laws governing such matters as minimum wage requirements, benefits, taxation, working conditions, citizenship requirements, and overtime.

We are subject to Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) regulation and various state laws regulating the offer and sale of franchises. The laws of several states also regulate substantive aspects of the franchisor-franchisee relationship. The FTC requires us to furnish to prospective franchisees a franchise disclosure document containing prescribed information. State laws that regulate the franchisor-franchisee relationship presently exist in a significant number of states, and bills have been introduced in Congress from time to time that would provide for federal regulation of the U.S. franchisor-franchisee relationship in certain respects if such bills were enacted. State laws often limit, among other things, the duration and scope of non-competition provisions and the ability of a franchisor to terminate or refuse to renew a franchise. Some foreign countries also have disclosure requirements and other laws regulating franchising and the franchisor-franchisee relationship. National, state and local government regulations or initiatives, including health care legislation, “living wage,” or other current or proposed regulations, and increases in minimum wage rates affect Papa John’s as well as others within the restaurant industry. We are also subject to applicable laws in each non-U.S. jurisdiction in which we operate.

## **Privacy and Data Protection**

We are subject to privacy and data protection laws and regulations globally. The legal and regulatory landscape for privacy and data protection continues to evolve, and there has been an increase in attention given to privacy and data protection issues with the potential to impact our business. This includes recently enacted laws and regulations in the U.S. and in other countries which require notification to individuals and government authorities of breaches involving certain categories of personal information. Any changes in privacy and data protection laws or regulations could also adversely impact the way we use e-mail, text messages and other marketing techniques and could require changes in our marketing strategies. We have a privacy policy posted on our website at [www.papajohns.com](http://www.papajohns.com). The security of our financial data, customer information and other personal information is a priority for us.



## **Trademarks, Copyrights and Domain Names**

We protect our intellectual property through a combination of patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets, foreign intellectual property laws, confidentiality agreements and other contractual provisions. We have also registered, and applied for the registration of, U.S. and international trademarks, service marks, domain names and copyrights. From time to time, we are made aware of the use by other persons in certain geographical areas of names and marks that are the same as or substantially similar to our marks. It is our policy to pursue registration of our marks whenever possible and to vigorously oppose any infringement of our marks.

We hold copyrights in authored works used in our business, including advertisements, packaging, training, website, and promotional materials. In addition, we have registered and maintain Internet domain names, including “papajohns.com,” and country code domains patterned as papajohns.cc, or a close variation thereof, with “.cc” representing a specific country code.

## **Impact of COVID-19**

Please refer to “Recent Business Matters” within “Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” for a discussion of recent business developments, including the impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our business and results of operations and financial condition.

## **Additional Information**

All of our periodic and current reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), are available, free of charge, through our website located at [www.papajohns.com](http://www.papajohns.com). These reports include our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and any amendments to those reports. These reports are available through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file them with the SEC. We also make available free of charge on our website our Corporate Governance Guidelines, Board Committee Charters, and our Code of Ethics, which applies to Papa John’s directors, officers and employees. Printed copies of such documents are also available free of charge upon written request to Investor Relations, Papa John’s International, Inc., P.O. Box 99900, Louisville, KY 40269-0900. The SEC maintains an internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including us, at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). The references to these website addresses do not constitute incorporation by reference of the information contained on the websites, which should not be considered part of this document.

## **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

We are subject to risks that could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. These risks could cause actual operating results to differ from those expressed in certain “forward-looking statements” contained in this Form 10-K as well as in other Company communications. You should carefully consider the following risk factors together with all other information included in this Form 10-K and our other publicly filed documents.

### ***Industry Risks***

*We are subject to risks related to pandemic outbreaks, including COVID-19, which may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.*

We are subject to risks related to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has had, and is expected to continue to have, significant adverse impacts on economic and market conditions. In response to the pandemic, governments and other authorities around the world have imposed measures to attempt to control the spread of COVID-19, including restrictions on freedom of movement and business operations such as travel bans, social distancing requirements, including limitations on gatherings, shelter-in-place orders and quarantines, and mandated business closures, which have resulted in significant changes in commercial activity and consumer behavior. We cannot predict when the effects of the pandemic will subside, how long there will be continuing resurgences or mutations of the virus or the effectiveness of vaccines and treatment

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therapies or the speed of vaccine distribution. To the extent that the COVID-19 pandemic continues or worsens, restrictions imposed by governments may not be lifted, or additional restrictions may be imposed. As a result, businesses such as our restaurants or QC Centers may be required to shut down, our employees may be prohibited from working, and our supply chains may be interrupted. It may be challenging to obtain and process ingredients and raw materials to support our business needs. In addition, individuals have and may continue to become ill, quarantined or otherwise unable to work and/or travel due to health reasons or governmental restrictions. Also, governments may impose other laws, regulations or taxes which could adversely impact our business, financial condition or results of operations. Further, if our customers' economic conditions are similarly affected, they might delay or reduce purchases from us, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition or results of operations.

The potential adverse effects of COVID-19 also could include, but may not be limited to, our ability to meet consumer demand through the continued availability of our workforce; adverse impacts from new laws and regulations affecting our business; increased cyber risks and reliance on technology infrastructure to support our business and operations, including through remote-work protocols; fluctuations in foreign currency markets credit risks of our customers and counterparties; and impairment of long-lived assets, the carrying value of goodwill or other indefinite-lived intangible assets. However, given the evolving health, economic, social, and governmental environments, the specific impact that COVID-19 could have on these risks remains uncertain.

Moreover, during the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have experienced a significant increase in comparable sales and revenues. The circumstances that have contributed to the acceleration of the growth of our business stemming from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic may not continue in the future once the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic tapers, particularly as a vaccine becomes widely available, and customers are no longer subject to shelter-in-place or social distancing mandates. We expect the growth rates in comparable sales and revenues to slow or decline.

*Our profitability may suffer as a result of intense competition in our industry.*

The QSR Pizza industry is mature and highly competitive. Competition is based on price, service, location, food quality, brand recognition and loyalty, product innovation, effectiveness of marketing and promotional activity, use of technology, and the ability to identify and satisfy consumer preferences. We may need to reduce the prices for some of our products to respond to competitive and customer pressures, which may adversely affect our profitability. When commodity and other costs increase, we may be limited in our ability to increase prices. With the significant level of competition and the pace of innovation, we may be required to increase investment spending in several areas, particularly marketing and technology, which can decrease profitability.

In addition to competition with our larger competitors, we face competition from new competitors such as fast casual pizza concepts. We also face competitive pressures from an array of food delivery concepts and aggregators delivering for quick service or dine in restaurants, using new delivery technologies or delivering for competitors who previously did not have delivery capabilities, some of which may have more effective marketing. The emergence or growth of new competitors, in the pizza category or in the food service industry generally, may make it difficult for us to maintain or increase our market share and could negatively impact our sales and our system-wide restaurant operations. We also face increasing competition from other home delivery services and grocery stores that offer an increasing variety of prepped or prepared meals in response to consumer demand. As a result, our sales can be directly and negatively impacted by actions of our competitors, the emergence or growth of new competitors, consumer sentiment or other factors outside our control.

One of our competitive strengths is our "BETTER INGREDIENTS. BETTER PIZZA.®" brand promise. This means we may use ingredients that cost more than the ingredients some of our competitors may use. Because of our investment in higher-quality ingredients, we could have lower profit margins than some of our competitors if we are not able to establish a quality differentiator that resonates with consumers. Our sales may be particularly impacted as competitors increasingly emphasize lower-cost menu options.

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*Changes in consumer preferences or discretionary consumer spending could adversely impact our results.*

Changes in consumer preferences and trends could negatively affect us (for example, changes in consumer perceptions of certain ingredients that could cause consumers to avoid pizza or some of its ingredients in favor of foods that are or are perceived as healthier, lower-calorie, or lower in carbohydrates or otherwise based on their ingredients or nutritional content). Preferences for a dining experience such as fast casual pizza concepts could also adversely affect our restaurant business and reduce the effectiveness of our marketing and technology initiatives. Also, our success depends to a significant extent on numerous factors affecting consumer confidence and discretionary consumer income and spending, such as general economic conditions, customer sentiment and the level of employment. Any factors that could cause consumers to spend less on food or shift to lower-priced products could reduce sales or inhibit our ability to maintain or increase pricing, which could adversely affect our operating results.

*Food safety and quality concerns may negatively impact our business and profitability.*

Incidents or reports of food- or water-borne illness or other food safety issues, investigations or other actions by food safety regulators, food contamination or tampering, employee hygiene and cleanliness failures, improper franchisee or employee conduct, or presence of communicable disease at our restaurants (both Company-owned and franchised), QC Centers, or suppliers could lead to product liability or other claims. If we were to experience any such incidents or reports, our brand and reputation could be negatively impacted. This could result in a significant decrease in customer traffic and could negatively impact our revenues and profits. Similar incidents or reports occurring at quick service restaurants unrelated to us could likewise create negative publicity, which could negatively impact consumer behavior towards us.

We rely on our domestic and international suppliers, as do our franchisees, to provide quality ingredients and to comply with applicable laws and industry standards. A failure of one of our domestic or international suppliers to meet our quality standards, or meet domestic or international food industry standards, could result in a disruption in our supply chain and negatively impact our brand and our results.

*Failure to preserve the value and relevance of our brand could have a negative impact on our financial results.*

Our results depend upon our ability to differentiate our brand and our reputation for quality. Damage to our brand or reputation could negatively impact our business and financial results. Our brand has been highly rated in certain U.S. surveys, and we strive to build the value of our brand as we develop international markets.

Consumer perceptions of our brand are affected by a variety of factors, such as the nutritional content and preparation of our food, the quality of the ingredients we use, our corporate culture, our policies and systems related to diversity, equity and inclusion, our business practices and the manner in which we source the commodities we use. Consumer acceptance of our offerings is subject to change for a variety of reasons, and some changes can occur rapidly. Consumer perceptions may also be affected by third parties, including former employees and executives, presenting or promoting adverse commentary or portrayals of our industry, our brand, our suppliers or our franchisees, or otherwise making statements, disclosing information or taking actions that could damage our reputation. If we are unsuccessful in managing incidents that erode consumer trust or confidence, particularly if such incidents receive considerable publicity or result in litigation, our brand value and financial results could be negatively impacted.

*Our inability or failure to recognize, respond to and effectively manage the accelerated impact of social media could adversely impact our business.*

In recent years, there has been a marked increase in the use of social media platforms, including blogs, chat platforms, social media websites, and other forms of internet-based communications that allow individuals access to a broad audience of consumers and other persons. The rising popularity of social media and other consumer-oriented technologies has increased the speed and accessibility of information dissemination. The dissemination of negative information via social media could harm our business, brand, reputation, marketing partners, financial condition, and results of operations, regardless of the information's accuracy.

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In addition, we frequently use social media to communicate with consumers and the public in general. Failure to use social media effectively could lead to a decline in brand value and revenue. Other risks associated with the use of social media include improper disclosure of proprietary information, negative comments about our brand, exposure of personally identifiable information, fraud, hoaxes or malicious dissemination of false information.

*Our franchise business model presents a number of risks.*

Our success increasingly relies on the financial success and cooperation of our franchisees, yet we have limited influence over their operations. Our franchisees manage their businesses independently, and therefore are responsible for the day-to-day operation of their restaurants. The revenues we realize from franchised restaurants are largely dependent on the ability of our franchisees to grow their sales. If our franchisees do not experience sales growth, our revenues and margins could be negatively affected. Also, if sales trends worsen for franchisees, especially in emerging markets and/or high cost markets, their financial results may deteriorate, which could result in, among other things, higher levels of required financial support from us, higher numbers of restaurant closures, reduced numbers of restaurant openings, delayed or reduced payments to us, or increased franchisee assistance, which reduces our revenues.

Our success also increasingly depends on the willingness and ability of our franchisees to remain aligned with us on operating, promotional and marketing plans. Franchisees' ability to continue to grow is also dependent in large part on the availability of franchisee funding at reasonable interest rates and may be negatively impacted by the financial markets in general or by the creditworthiness of our franchisees. Our operating performance could also be negatively affected if our franchisees experience food safety or other operational problems or project an image inconsistent with our brand and values, particularly if our contractual and other rights and remedies are limited, costly to exercise or subjected to litigation. If franchisees do not successfully operate restaurants in a manner consistent with our required standards, the brand's image and reputation could be harmed, which in turn could hurt our business and operating results.

*We may be adversely impacted by increases in the cost of food ingredients and other costs.*

We are exposed to fluctuations in prices of commodities. An increase in the cost or sustained high levels of the cost of cheese or other commodities could adversely affect the profitability of our system-wide restaurant operations, particularly if we are unable to increase the selling price of our products to offset increased costs. Cheese, representing our largest food cost, and other commodities can be subject to significant cost fluctuations due to weather, availability, global demand and other factors that are beyond our control. Additionally, increases in labor, mileage, insurance, fuel, and other costs could adversely affect the profitability of our restaurant and QC Center businesses. Many of the factors affecting costs in our system-wide restaurant operations are beyond our control, and we may not be able to adequately mitigate these costs or pass along these costs to our customers or franchisees, given the significant competitive pricing pressures we face.

*Changes in privacy or data protection laws could adversely affect our ability to market our products effectively.*

We rely on a variety of direct marketing techniques, including email, text messages and postal mailings. Any future restrictions in federal, state or foreign laws regarding marketing and solicitation or domestic or international data protection laws that govern these activities could adversely affect the continuing effectiveness of email, text messages and postal mailing techniques and could force changes in our marketing strategies. If this occurs, we may need to develop alternative marketing strategies, which may not be as effective and could impact the amount and timing of our revenues.

*Our international operations are subject to increased risks and other factors that may make it more difficult to achieve or maintain profitability or meet planned growth rates.*

Our international operations could be negatively impacted by volatility and instability in international economic, political, security or health conditions in the countries in which the Company or our franchisees operate, especially in emerging markets. In addition, there are risks associated with differing business and social cultures and consumer preferences. We may face limited availability for restaurant locations, higher location costs and difficulties in franchisee selection and financing. We may be subject to difficulties in sourcing and importing high-quality ingredients (and ensuring food safety) in a cost-effective manner, hiring and retaining qualified team members, marketing effectively and adequately investing in information technology, especially in emerging markets.

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Our international operations are also subject to additional risk factors, including import and export controls, compliance with anti-corruption and other foreign laws, difficulties enforcing intellectual property and contract rights in foreign jurisdictions, and the imposition of increased or new tariffs or trade barriers. We intend to continue to expand internationally, which would make the risks related to our international operations more significant over time.

Our international restaurants' results, which are completely franchised, depend heavily on the operating capabilities and financial strength of our franchisees. Any changes in the ability of our franchisees to run their stores profitably in accordance with our operating standards, or to effectively sub-franchise restaurants, could result in brand damage, a higher number of restaurant closures and a reduction in the number of new restaurant openings.

Sales made by our franchisees in international markets and certain loans we provide to such franchisees are denominated in their local currencies, and fluctuations in the U.S. dollar occur relative to the local currencies. Accordingly, changes in currency exchange rates will cause our revenues, investment income and operating results to fluctuate. We have not historically hedged our exposure to foreign currency fluctuations. Our international revenues and earnings may be adversely impacted as the U.S. dollar rises against foreign currencies because the local currency will translate into fewer U.S. dollars. Additionally, the value of certain assets or loans denominated in local currencies may deteriorate. Other items denominated in U.S. dollars, including product imports or loans, may also become more expensive, putting pressure on franchisees' cash flows.

We are subject to risks and uncertainties associated with the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union (referred to as "Brexit"), including implications for the free flow of labor and goods in the United Kingdom and the European Union and other financial, legal, tax and trade implications.

*Adverse global economic conditions subject us to additional risk.*

Our financial condition and results of operations are impacted by global markets and economic conditions over which neither we nor our franchisees have control. An economic downturn, including deterioration in the economic conditions in the U.S. or international markets where we compete, may result in a reduction in the demand for our products, longer payment cycles, slower adoption of new technologies and increased price competition.

Poor economic conditions may adversely affect the ability of our franchisees to pay royalties or amounts owed and could also disrupt our business and adversely affect our results.

*Higher labor costs and increased competition for qualified team members increase the cost of doing business and ensuring adequate staffing in our restaurants and QC Centers. Additionally, changes in employment and labor laws, including health care legislation and minimum wage increases, could increase costs for our system-wide operations.*

Our success depends in part on our and our franchisees' ability to recruit, motivate, train and retain a qualified workforce to work in our restaurants in an intensely competitive environment. Increased costs associated with recruiting, motivating and retaining qualified employees to work in Company-owned and franchised restaurants have had, and may in the future have, a negative impact on our Company-owned restaurant margins and the margins of franchised restaurants. Competition for qualified drivers for both our restaurants and supply-chain function also continues to increase as more companies compete for drivers or enter the delivery space, including third party aggregators. Additionally, economic actions, such as boycotts, protests, work stoppages or campaigns by labor organizations, could adversely affect us (including our ability to recruit and retain talent) or our franchisees and suppliers. Social media may be used to foster negative perceptions of employment with our Company in particular or in our industry generally, and to promote strikes or boycotts.

We are also subject to federal, state and foreign laws governing such matters as minimum wage requirements, overtime compensation, benefits, working conditions, citizenship requirements and discrimination and family and medical leave and employee related litigation. Labor costs and labor-related benefits are primary components in the cost of operation of our restaurants and QC Centers. Labor shortages, increased employee turnover and health care mandates could increase our system-wide labor costs.

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A significant number of hourly personnel are paid at rates close to the federal and state minimum wage requirements. Accordingly, the enactment of additional state or local minimum wage increases above federal wage rates or regulations related to exempt employees has increased and could continue to increase labor costs for our domestic system-wide operations. A significant increase in the federal minimum wage requirement could adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations.

*We rely on information technology to operate our businesses and maintain our competitiveness, and any failure to invest in or adapt to technological developments or industry trends could harm our business.*

We rely heavily on information systems, including digital ordering solutions, through which over half of our domestic sales originate. We also rely heavily on point-of-sale processing in our Company-owned and franchised restaurants for data collection and payment systems for the collection of cash, credit and debit card transactions, and other processes and procedures. Our ability to efficiently and effectively manage our business depends on the reliability and capacity of these technology systems. In addition, we anticipate that consumers will continue to have more options to place orders digitally, both domestically and internationally. We plan to continue to invest in enhancing and improving the functionality and features of our information technology systems. However, we cannot ensure that our initiatives will be beneficial to the extent, or within the timeframes, expected or that the estimated improvements will be realized as anticipated or at all. Our failure to adequately invest in new technology, adapt to technological developments and industry trends, particularly our digital ordering capabilities, could result in a loss of customers and related market share. Notwithstanding adequate investment in new technology, our marketing and technology initiatives may not be successful in improving our comparable sales results. Additionally, we are in an environment where the technology life cycle is short and consumer technology demands are high, which requires continued reinvestment in technology that will increase the cost of doing business and will increase the risk that our technology may not be customer-centric or could become obsolete, inefficient or otherwise incompatible with other systems.

We rely on our international franchisees to maintain their own point-of-sale and online ordering systems, which are often purchased from third-party vendors, potentially exposing international franchisees to more operational risk, including cyber and data privacy risks and governmental regulation compliance risks.

***Company Risks***

*Our reorganization activities will increase our expenses, may not be successful, and may adversely impact employee hiring and retention.*

On September 17, 2020, we announced plans to open an office in Atlanta, Georgia. As a result, we have incurred and will incur certain non-recurring corporate reorganization costs in 2020 and 2021, and these expenses have impacted and will adversely impact our results of operations during the relevant periods and will reduce our cash position. Additionally, the amount of these estimated expenses, as well as our ability to achieve the anticipated benefits of our corporate reorganization, are subject to assumptions and uncertainties. If we do not realize the anticipated benefits from these measures, or if we incur costs greater than anticipated, our financial condition and operating results may be adversely affected.

In addition, turnover in our corporate office support teams due to certain functions relocating to our office in Georgia could distract our employees, decrease employee morale, harm our reputation, and negatively impact the overall performance of our corporate support teams. As a result of these or other similar risks, our business, results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected.

*We may not be able to effectively market our products or maintain key marketing partnerships.*

The success of our business depends on the effectiveness of our marketing and promotional plans. We may not be able to effectively execute our national or local marketing plans, particularly if we experienced lower sales that would result in reduced levels of marketing funds. We may be required to expend additional funds to effectively improve consumer sentiment and sales, and we may also be required to engage in additional activities to retain customers or attract new

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customers to the brand. Such marketing expenses and promotional activities, which could include discounting our products, could adversely impact our results.

Persons or marketing partners who endorse our products could take actions that harm their reputations, which could also cause harm to our brand. From time to time, in response to changes in the business environment and the audience share of marketing channels, we expect to reallocate marketing resources across social media and other channels. That reallocation may not be effective or as successful as the marketing and advertising allocations of our competitors, which could negatively impact the amount and timing of our revenues.

*We may not be able to execute our strategy or achieve our planned growth targets, which could negatively impact our business and our financial results.*

Our growth strategy depends on our and our franchisees' ability to open new restaurants and to operate them on a profitable basis. We expect substantially all of our international unit growth and much of our domestic unit growth to be franchised units. Accordingly, our profitability increasingly depends upon royalty revenues from franchisees. If our franchisees are not able to operate their businesses successfully under our franchised business model, our results could suffer. Additionally, we may fail to attract new qualified franchisees or existing franchisees may close underperforming locations. Planned growth targets and the ability to operate new and existing restaurants profitably are affected by economic, regulatory and competitive conditions and consumer buying habits. A decrease in sales, such as what we experienced in 2018 and the first half of 2019, or increased commodity or operating costs, including, but not limited to, employee compensation and benefits or insurance costs, could slow the rate of new store openings or increase the number of store closings. Our business is susceptible to adverse changes in local, national and global economic conditions, which could make it difficult for us to meet our growth targets. Additionally, we or our franchisees may face challenges securing financing, finding suitable store locations at acceptable terms or securing required domestic or foreign government permits and approvals. Declines in comparable sales, net store openings and related operating profits can impact our stock price. If we do not continue to improve future sales and operating results and meet our related growth targets or external expectations for net restaurant openings or our other strategic objectives in the future, our stock price could decline.

Our franchisees remain dependent on the availability of financing to remodel or renovate existing locations, upgrade systems and enhance technology, or construct and open new restaurants. From time to time, the Company may provide financing to certain franchisees and prospective franchisees in order to mitigate store closings, allow new units to open, or complete required upgrades. If we are unable or unwilling to provide such financing, which is a function of, among other things, a franchisee's creditworthiness, the number of new restaurant openings may be slower or the rate of closures may be higher than expected and our results of operations may be adversely impacted. To the extent we provide financing to franchisees, our results could be negatively impacted by negative performance of these franchisee loans.

*Our dependence on a sole supplier or a limited number of suppliers for some ingredients could result in disruptions to our business.*

Domestic restaurants purchase substantially all food and related products from our QC Centers. We are dependent on Leprino Foods Dairy Products Company ("Leprino") as our sole supplier for mozzarella cheese, one of our key ingredients. Leprino, one of the major pizza category suppliers of cheese in the United States, currently supplies all of our mozzarella cheese domestically and substantially all of our mozzarella cheese internationally. We also depend on a sole source for our supply of certain desserts and garlic sauce, which constitute less than 10% of our domestic Company-owned restaurant sales. While we have no other sole sources of supply for key ingredients or menu items, we do source other key ingredients from a limited number of suppliers. Alternative sources of mozzarella cheese, desserts, other key ingredients or menu items may not be available on a timely basis or may not be available on terms as favorable to us as under our current arrangements.

Our Company-owned and franchised restaurants could also be harmed by supply chain interruptions including those caused by factors beyond our control or the control of our suppliers. Prolonged disruption in the supply of products from or to our QC Centers due to weather, climate change, natural disasters, COVID-19, crop disease, food safety incidents, regulatory compliance, labor dispute or interruption of service by carriers could increase costs, limit the availability of ingredients critical to our restaurant operations and have a significant impact on results. In particular, adverse weather or

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crop disease affecting the California tomato crop could disrupt the supply of pizza sauce to our and our franchisees' restaurants. Insolvency of key suppliers could also cause similar business interruptions and negatively impact our business.

*We rely on third parties for certain business processes and services, and failure or inability of such third-party vendors to perform subjects us to risks, including business disruption and increased costs.*

We depend on the performance of suppliers and other third parties in our business operations. Third-party business processes we utilize include information technology, gift card authorization and processing, other payment processing, benefits, and other accounting and business services. We conduct third-party due diligence and seek to obtain contractual assurance that our vendors will maintain adequate controls, such as adequate security against data breaches. However, the failure of our suppliers to maintain adequate controls or comply with our expectations and standards could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, and operating results.

*Changes in purchasing practices by our domestic franchisees could harm our commissary business.*

Although our domestic franchisees currently purchase substantially all food products from our QC Centers, the only required QC Center purchases by franchisees are pizza sauce, dough and other items we may designate as proprietary or integral to our system. Any changes in purchasing practices by domestic franchisees, such as seeking alternative approved suppliers of ingredients or other food products, could adversely affect the financial results of our QC Centers and the Company.

*Our current insurance may not be adequate and we may experience claims in excess of our reserves.*

Our insurance programs for workers' compensation, owned and non-owned automobiles, general liability, property, and health insurance coverage provided to our employees are funded by the Company up to certain retention levels under our retention programs. Retention limits generally range from \$1,000 to \$1.0 million. These insurance programs may not be adequate to protect us, and it may be difficult or impossible to obtain additional coverage or maintain current coverage at a reasonable cost. We also have experienced claims volatility and high costs for our insurance programs. We estimate loss reserves based on historical trends, actuarial assumptions and other data available to us, but we may not be able to accurately estimate reserves. If we experience claims in excess of our projections, our business could be negatively impacted. Our franchisees could be similarly impacted by higher claims experience, hurting both their operating results and/or limiting their ability to maintain adequate insurance coverage at a reasonable cost.

*We are subject to debt covenant restrictions.*

Our credit agreement contains affirmative and negative covenants, including financial covenants. If a covenant violation occurs or is expected to occur, we would be required to seek a waiver or amendment from the lenders under the credit agreement. The failure to obtain a waiver or amendment on a timely basis would result in our inability to borrow additional funds or obtain letters of credit under our credit agreement and allow the lenders under our credit agreement to declare our loan obligations due and payable, require us to cash collateralize outstanding letters of credit or increase our interest rate. If any of the foregoing events occur, we would need to refinance our debt, or renegotiate or restructure, the terms of the credit agreement.

*With our indebtedness, we may have reduced availability of cash flow for other purposes. Increases in interest rates would also increase our debt service costs and could materially impact our profitability as well as the profitability of our franchisees.*

Current debt levels under our existing credit facility may reduce available cash flow to plan for or react to business changes, changes in the industry or any general adverse economic conditions. Under our credit facility, we are exposed to variable interest rates. We have entered into interest rate swaps that fix a significant portion of our variable interest rate risk. However, by using a derivative instrument to hedge exposures to changes in interest rates, we also expose ourselves to credit risk. Credit risk is due to the possible failure of the counterparty to perform under the terms of the derivative contract.

Higher inflation, and a related increase in costs, including rising interest rates, could also impact our franchisees and their ability to open new restaurants or operate existing restaurants profitably.



In addition, the loans under our credit facility accrue interest at a per annum rate that may include, at the Company's election, a spread over the London Interbank Offered Rate ("LIBOR"). In July 2017, the head of the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority (the authority that regulates LIBOR) announced its intention to phase out the use of LIBOR by the end of 2021. However, the Intercontinental Exchange Benchmark Administration, in its capacity as administrator of USD LIBOR, has announced that it intends to extend publication of USD LIBOR (other than one-week and two-month tenors) by 18 months to June 2023. Notwithstanding this possible extension, a joint statement by key regulatory authorities calls on banks to cease entering into new contracts that use USD LIBOR as a reference rate by no later than December 31, 2021. The U.S. Federal Reserve, in conjunction with the Alternative Reference Rates Committee, a steering committee comprised of large U.S. financial institutions, is considering replacing U.S.-dollar LIBOR with the Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR"), a new index calculated by short-term repurchase agreements, backed by Treasury securities. Although SOFR appears to be the preferred replacement rate for U.S. dollar LIBOR, at this time, it is not possible to definitively predict the effect of any changes to LIBOR, any phase out of LIBOR or any establishment of alternative benchmark rates, including SOFR. The cessation of LIBOR will require us to amend the terms of our credit facility or any future credit agreements extending beyond June 2023 and indexed to LIBOR to replace LIBOR with SOFR or such other standard that is established, which could have a material adverse effect on us, including on our cost of funds, access to capital markets and financial results.

### **Investment Risks**

*Our Board of Directors has adopted a limited duration stockholder rights agreement, which could delay or discourage a merger, tender offer, or assumption of control of the Company not approved by our Board of Directors.*

On April 30, 2019, the Company's stockholders ratified the adoption by the Board of Directors of the Rights Agreement, dated as of July 22, 2018, as amended on February 3, 2019, March 6, 2019, and October 23, 2019 (as amended, the "Rights Agreement"). The original Rights Agreement adopted by the Board of Directors on July 22, 2018 had an expiration date of July 22, 2019 and a beneficial ownership trigger threshold of 15%. On February 3, 2019, in connection with the sale and issuance of shares of the Company's Series B Convertible Preferred Stock ("Series B Preferred Stock") to certain funds affiliated with, or managed by, Starboard Value LP (collectively, "Starboard"), the original Rights Agreement was amended to exempt Starboard from being considered an "Acquiring Person" under the Rights Agreement solely as a result of its beneficial ownership of (i) shares of common stock beneficially owned by Starboard prior to the sale and issuance of the Series B Preferred Stock, (ii) shares of Series B Preferred Stock issued or issuable to Starboard under the terms of the Securities Purchase Agreement, dated February 3, 2019, with Starboard (the "Securities Purchase Agreement"), and (iii) shares of the common stock (or in certain circumstances certain series of preferred stock) issuable upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock (or certain series of preferred stock issuable on conversion thereof) pursuant to the terms of the Certificate of Designation of Series B Preferred Stock. On March 6, 2019, the Rights Agreement was further amended to extend the term of the Rights Agreement to March 6, 2022, increase the beneficial ownership trigger threshold at which a person becomes an acquiring person from 15% to 20%, except for a "grandfathered person" provision, and make certain other changes. The Rights Agreement was further amended on October 23, 2019 to eliminate the "grandfathered person" provision as there are no stockholders that currently beneficially own 20% or more of the Company's common stock.

The Rights Agreement is intended to enable all of our stockholders to realize the full potential value of their investment in the Company and to protect the interests of the Company and its stockholders by reducing the likelihood that any person or group gains control of the Company through open market accumulation or other tactics without paying an appropriate control premium. The Rights Agreement could render more difficult, or discourage, a merger, tender offer, or assumption of control of the Company that is not approved by our Board of Directors. The Rights Agreement, however, should not interfere with any merger, tender or exchange offer or other business combination approved by our Board of Directors. In addition, the Rights Agreement does not prevent our Board of Directors from considering any offer that it considers to be in the best interest of the Company's stockholders.

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*The issuance of shares of our Series B Preferred Stock to Starboard and its permitted transferees dilutes the ownership and relative voting power of holders of our common stock and may adversely affect the market price of our common stock.*

Pursuant to the Securities Purchase Agreement, the Company sold 250,000 shares of our newly designated Series B Preferred Stock to Starboard in 2019.

As of December 27, 2020, the shares held by Starboard represent 13.3% of our outstanding common stock on an as-converted basis. The Series B Preferred Stock is convertible at the option of the holders at any time into shares of common stock based on the conversion rate determined by dividing \$1,000, the stated value of the Series B Preferred Stock, by \$50.06.

Because holders of our Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to vote, on an as-converted basis, together with holders of our common stock on all matters submitted to a vote of the holders of our common stock, the issuance of the Series B Preferred Stock to Starboard effectively reduces the relative voting power of the holders of our common stock.

In addition, the conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock into common stock would dilute the ownership interest of existing holders of our common stock. Furthermore, any sales in the public market of the common stock issuable upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock could adversely affect prevailing market prices of our common stock. Pursuant to a customary registration rights agreement with Starboard, we have registered for resale under the Securities Act of 1933 the shares of Series B Preferred Stock and any shares of common stock issued upon conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock. This registration may facilitate the resale of such securities into the public market, and any such resale would increase the number of shares of our common stock available for public trading. Sales by Starboard of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that such sales might occur, could have a material adverse effect on the price of our common stock.

*Our Series B Preferred Stock has rights, preferences and privileges that are not held by, and are preferential to, the rights of, our common stockholders, which could adversely affect our liquidity and financial condition, result in the interests of holders of our Series B Preferred Stock differing from those of our common stockholders and delay or prevent an attempt to take over the Company.*

Starboard and the other holders of our Series B Preferred Stock have a liquidation preference entitling them to be paid, before any payment may be made to holders of our common stock in connection with a liquidation event, an amount per share of Series B Preferred Stock equal to the greater of (i) the stated value thereof plus accrued and unpaid dividends and (ii) the amount that would have been received had such share of Series B Preferred Stock been converted into common stock immediately prior to such liquidation event.

Holders of Series B Preferred Stock are entitled to a preferential cumulative dividend at the rate of 3.6% per annum, payable quarterly in arrears. On the third anniversary of the date of issuance, each holder of Series B Preferred Stock will have the right to increase the dividend on the shares of Series B Preferred Stock held by such holder to 5.6%, and on the fifth anniversary of the date of issuance, each holder will have the right to increase the dividend on the shares of Series B Preferred Stock held by such holder to 7.6% (in each case subject to the Company's right to redeem some or all of such shares of Series B Preferred Stock for cash).

The holders of our Series B Preferred Stock also have certain redemption rights or put rights, including the right on any date following November 6, 2026 to require us to repurchase all or any portion of the Series B Preferred Stock. Holders of the Series B Preferred Stock also have the right, subject to certain exceptions, to require us to repurchase all or any portion of the Series B Preferred Stock upon certain change of control events.

These dividend and share repurchase obligations could impact our liquidity and reduce the amount of cash flows available for working capital, capital expenditures, growth opportunities, acquisitions, and other general corporate purposes. Our obligations to Starboard, as the initial holder of our Series B Preferred Stock, could also limit our ability to obtain additional financing or increase our borrowing costs, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition. The preferential rights could also result in divergent interests between Starboard and holders of our common stock. Furthermore, a sale of our Company, as a change of control event, may require us to repurchase Series B Preferred Stock, which could have the

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effect of making an acquisition of the Company more expensive and potentially deterring proposed transactions that may otherwise be beneficial to our stockholders.

*Starboard may exercise influence over us, including through its ability to designate up to two members of our Board of Directors.*

The transaction documents entered into in connection with the sale of the Series B Preferred Stock to Starboard grant to Starboard consent rights with respect to certain actions by us, including:

- amending our organizational documents in a manner that would have an adverse effect on the Series B Preferred Stock;
- issuing securities that are senior to, or equal in priority with, the Series B Preferred Stock; and
- increasing the maximum number of directors on our Board to more than eleven persons or twelve persons, subject to the terms of the Governance Agreement (the “Governance Agreement”) entered into in connection with the Securities Purchase Agreement.

The Securities Purchase Agreement also imposes a number of affirmative and negative covenants on us. As a result, Starboard has the ability to influence the outcome of matters submitted for the vote of the holders of our common stock. Starboard and its affiliates are in the business of making or advising on investments in companies, including businesses that may directly or indirectly compete with certain portions of our business, and they may have interests that diverge from, or even conflict with, those of our other stockholders. They may also pursue acquisition opportunities that may be complementary to our business, and, as a result, those acquisition opportunities may not be available to us.

In addition, the terms of the Governance Agreement grant Starboard certain rights to designate directors to be nominated for election by holders of our common stock. For so long as certain criteria set forth in the Governance Agreement are satisfied, including that Starboard beneficially own, in the aggregate, at least (i) 89,264 shares of Series B Preferred Stock or (ii) the lesser of 5.0% of the Company’s then-outstanding common stock (on an as-converted basis, if applicable) and 1,783,141 shares of issued and outstanding common stock (subject to adjustment for stock splits, reclassifications, combinations and similar adjustments), Starboard has the right to designate two directors for election to our Board, consisting of one nominee who is affiliated with Starboard and one independent nominee.

The directors designated by Starboard also are entitled to serve on committees of our Board, subject to applicable law and stock exchange rules. Notwithstanding the fact that all directors will be subject to fiduciary duties to us and to applicable law, the interests of the directors designated by Starboard may differ from the interests of our security holders as a whole or of our other directors.

*We may not be able to raise the funds necessary to finance a required repurchase of our Series B Preferred Stock.*

After November 6, 2026, each holder of Series B Preferred Stock will have the right, upon 90 days’ notice, to require the Company to repurchase all or any portion of the Series B Preferred Stock for cash at a price equal to \$1,000 per share of Series B Preferred Stock plus all accrued but unpaid dividends. In addition, upon certain change of control events, holders of Series B Preferred Stock can require us, subject to certain exceptions, to repurchase any or all of their Series B Preferred Stock.

It is possible that we would not have sufficient funds to make any required repurchase of Series B Preferred Stock. Moreover, we may not be able to arrange financing to pay the repurchase price.

## **General Risks**

*Natural disasters, hostilities, social unrest, severe weather and other catastrophic events may disrupt our operations or supply chain.*

The occurrence of a natural disaster, hostilities, cyber-attack, social unrest, terrorist activity, outbreak of epidemic, pandemic or contagious disease, power outages, severe weather (such as tornados, hurricanes, blizzards, ice storms, floods, heat waves, etc.) or other catastrophic events may disrupt our operations or supply chain and result in the closure of our restaurants (Company-owned or franchised), our corporate offices, any of our QC Centers or the facilities of our suppliers, and can adversely affect consumer spending, consumer confidence levels and supply availability and costs, any of which could materially adversely affect our results of operations.

*Increasingly complex laws and regulations could adversely affect our business.*

We operate in an increasingly complex regulatory environment, and the cost of regulatory compliance is increasing. Our failure, or the failure of any of our franchisees, to comply with applicable U.S. and international labor, health care, food, health and safety, consumer protection, anti-bribery and corruption, competition, environmental and other laws may result in civil and criminal liability, damages, fines and penalties. Enforcement of existing laws and regulations, changes in legal requirements, and/or evolving interpretations of existing regulatory requirements may result in increased compliance costs and create other obligations, financial or otherwise, that could adversely affect our business, financial condition or operating results. Increased regulatory scrutiny of food matters and product marketing claims, and increased litigation and enforcement actions may increase compliance and legal costs and create other obligations that could adversely affect our business, financial condition or operating results. Governments may also impose requirements and restrictions that impact our business. For example, some local government agencies have implemented ordinances that restrict the sale of certain food or drink products.

Compliance with new or additional domestic and international government laws or regulations, including the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) and the California Consumer Privacy Act (“CCPA”) which could increase costs for compliance. These laws and regulations are increasing in complexity and number, change frequently and increasingly conflict among the various countries in which we operate, which has resulted in greater compliance risk and costs. If we fail to comply with these laws or regulations, we could be subject to reputational damage and significant litigation, monetary damages, regulatory enforcement actions or fines in various jurisdictions. For example, a failure to comply with the GDPR could result in fines up to the greater of €20 million or 4% of annual global revenues.

*Disruptions of our critical business or information technology systems could harm our ability to compete and conduct our business.*

Our critical business and information technology systems have in the past, and could in the future be damaged or interrupted by power loss, various technological failures, user errors, cyber-attacks, sabotage or acts of God. In particular, the Company and our franchisees have experienced occasional interruptions of our digital ordering solutions, which make online ordering unavailable or slow to respond, negatively impacting sales and the experience of our customers. If our digital ordering solutions do not perform with adequate speed and security, our customers may be less inclined to return to our digital ordering solutions.

Part of our technology infrastructure, such as our domestic point-of-sale system, is specifically designed for us and our operational systems, which could cause unexpected costs, delays or inefficiencies when infrastructure upgrades are needed or prolonged and widespread technological difficulties occur. Significant portions of our technology infrastructure, particularly in our digital ordering solutions, are provided by third parties, and the performance of these systems is largely beyond our control. Occasionally, we have experienced or could experience temporary disruptions in our business due to third-party systems failing to adequately perform. Failure to manage future failures of these systems, particularly as our online sales grow, could harm our business and the satisfaction of our customers. Such third-party systems could be disrupted either through system failure or if third party vendor patents and contractual agreements do not afford us protection against similar technology. In addition, we may not have or be able to obtain adequate protection or insurance

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to mitigate the risks of these events or compensate for losses related to these events, which could damage our business and reputation and be expensive and difficult to remedy or repair.

*Failure to maintain the integrity of internal or customer data could result in damage to our reputation, loss of sales, and/or subject us to litigation, penalties or significant costs.*

We are subject to a number of privacy and data protection laws and regulations. We collect and retain large volumes of internal and customer data, including credit card data and other personally identifiable information of our employees and customers housed in the various information systems we use. Constantly changing information security threats, particularly persistent cyber security threats, pose risks to the security of our systems and networks, and the confidentiality, availability and integrity of our data and the availability and integrity of our critical business functions. As techniques used in cyber-attacks evolve, we may not be able to timely detect threats or anticipate and implement adequate security measures. The integrity and protection of the customer, employee, franchisee and Company data are critical to us. Our information technology systems and databases, and those provided by our third-party vendors, including international vendors, have been and will continue to be subject to computer viruses, malware attacks, unauthorized user attempts, phishing and denial of service and other malicious cyber-attacks. The failure to prevent fraud or security breaches or to adequately invest in data security could harm our business and revenues due to the reputational damage to our brand. Such a breach could also result in litigation, regulatory actions, penalties, and other significant costs to us and have a material adverse effect on our financial results. These costs could be significant and well in excess of, or not covered by, our cyber insurance coverage.

*We have been and will continue to be subject to various types of investigations and litigation, including collective and class action litigation, which could subject us to significant damages or other remedies.*

We are subject to the risk of investigations and litigation from various parties, including vendors, customers, franchisees, state and federal agencies, stockholders and employees. From time to time, we are involved in a number of lawsuits, claims, investigations, and proceedings consisting of securities, antitrust, intellectual property, employment, consumer, personal injury, corporate governance, commercial and other matters arising in the ordinary course of business.

We have been subject to claims in cases containing collective and class action allegations. Plaintiffs in these types of lawsuits often seek recovery of very large or indeterminate amounts, and the magnitude of the potential loss and defense costs relating to such lawsuits may not be accurately estimated. Litigation trends involving personal injury, employment law, intellectual property and the relationship between franchisors and franchisees may increase our cost of doing business. We evaluate all of the claims and proceedings involving us to assess the expected outcome, and where possible, we estimate the amount of potential losses to us. In many cases, particularly collective and class action cases, we may not be able to estimate the amount of potential losses and/or our estimates may prove to be insufficient. These assessments are made by management based on the information available at the time made and require the use of a significant amount of judgment, and actual outcomes or losses may materially differ. Regardless of whether any claims against us are valid, or whether we are ultimately held liable, such litigation may be expensive to defend and may divert resources away from our operations and negatively impact earnings. Further, we may not be able to obtain adequate insurance to protect us from these types of litigation matters or extraordinary business losses.

We may be subject to harassment or discrimination claims and legal proceedings. Our Code of Ethics and Business Conduct policies prohibit harassment and discrimination in the workplace, in sexual or in any other form. To monitor and enforce these policies, we have ongoing programs for workplace training and compliance, and we investigate and take disciplinary action with respect to alleged violations. Nevertheless, actions by our team members could violate those policies. Franchisees and suppliers are also required to comply with all applicable laws and govern themselves with integrity. Any violations (or perceptions thereof) by our franchisees or suppliers could have a negative impact on consumer perceptions of us and our business and create reputational or other harm to the Company.

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*We may not be able to adequately protect our intellectual property rights, which could negatively affect our results of operations.*

We depend on the Papa John's brand name and rely on a combination of trademarks, service marks, copyrights, and similar intellectual property rights to protect and promote our brand. We believe the success of our business depends on our continued ability to exclusively use our existing marks to increase brand awareness and further develop our brand, both domestically and abroad. We may not be able to adequately protect our intellectual property rights, and we may be required to pursue litigation to prevent consumer confusion and preserve our brand's high-quality reputation. Litigation could result in high costs and diversion of resources, which could negatively affect our results of operations, regardless of the outcome.

*We may be subject to impairment charges.*

Impairment charges are possible due to the nature and timing of decisions we make about underperforming assets or markets, or if previously opened or acquired restaurants perform below our expectations. This could result in a decrease in our reported asset value and reduction in our net income.

*We operate globally and changes in tax laws could adversely affect our results.*

We operate globally and changes in tax laws could adversely affect our results. We have international operations and generate substantial revenues and profits in foreign jurisdictions. The domestic and international tax environments continue to evolve as a result of tax changes in various jurisdictions in which we operate and changes in the tax laws in certain countries, including the United States, could impact our future operating results. A significant increase in the U.S. corporate tax rate could negatively impact our financial results.

**Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments**

None.

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**Item 2. Properties**

As of December 27, 2020, there were 5,400 Papa John’s restaurants worldwide. The following tables provide the locations of our restaurants. We define “North America” as the United States and Canada and “domestic” as the contiguous United States.

**North America Restaurants:**

	<u>Company (1)</u>	<u>Franchised</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alabama	3	80	83
Alaska	—	11	11
Arizona	—	69	69
Arkansas	—	26	26
California	—	178	178
Colorado	—	47	47
Connecticut	—	5	5
Delaware	—	17	17
District of Columbia	—	11	11
Florida	39	247	286
Georgia	82	94	176
Hawaii	—	14	14
Idaho	—	14	14
Illinois	8	72	80
Indiana	43	93	136
Iowa	—	24	24
Kansas	15	19	34
Kentucky	40	66	106
Louisiana	—	60	60
Maine	—	3	3
Maryland	60	42	102
Massachusetts	—	7	7
Michigan	—	35	35
Minnesota	—	35	35
Mississippi	—	33	33
Missouri	41	28	69
Montana	—	9	9
Nebraska	—	13	13
Nevada	—	24	24
New Hampshire	—	3	3
New Jersey	—	52	52
New Mexico	—	16	16
New York	—	84	84
North Carolina	99	80	179
North Dakota	—	9	9
Ohio	—	160	160
Oklahoma	—	36	36
Oregon	—	14	14
Pennsylvania	—	78	78
Rhode Island	—	4	4
South Carolina	8	78	86
South Dakota	—	13	13
Tennessee	34	83	117
Texas	90	212	302
Utah	—	30	30
Virginia	26	121	147
Washington	—	42	42
West Virginia	—	22	22
Wisconsin	—	24	24
Wyoming	—	9	9
Total U.S. Papa John’s Restaurants	<u>588</u>	<u>2,546</u>	<u>3,134</u>
Canada	—	155	155
Total North America Papa John’s Restaurants	<u>588</u>	<u>2,701</u>	<u>3,289</u>

(1) Company-owned Papa John’s restaurants include restaurants owned by majority-owned subsidiaries. There were 188 such restaurants at December 27, 2020 (60 in Maryland, 90 in Texas, 26 in Virginia, and 12 in Georgia).

**International Restaurants:**

	<b>Franchised</b>
Azerbaijan	9
Bahrain	19
Belarus	21
Bolivia	5
Cayman Islands	2
Chile	115
China	211
Colombia	54
Costa Rica	32
Cyprus	7
Dominican Republic	18
Ecuador	21
Egypt	57
El Salvador	24
France	4
Guam	3
Guatemala	16
Iraq	1
Ireland	79
Israel	6
Kazakhstan	6
Korea	193
Kuwait	40
Kyrgyzstan	3
Mexico	80
Morocco	5
Netherlands	30
Nicaragua	4
Oman	8
Pakistan	10
Panama	19
Peru	45
Philippines	15
Poland	6
Portugal	3
Puerto Rico	26
Qatar	30
Russia	182
Saudi Arabia	7
Spain	69
Trinidad	9
Tunisia	9
Turkey	55
United Arab Emirates	56
United Kingdom	467
Venezuela	30
Total International Papa John's Restaurants (1)	<u>2,111</u>

(1) Of the Company's 2,111 international franchised restaurants, approximately 65 stores were temporarily closed as of December 27, 2020, principally in Latin America and Europe, in accordance with government policies as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.



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Most Papa John's Company-owned restaurants are located in leased space. The initial term of most domestic restaurant leases is five years with most leases providing for one or more options to renew for at least one additional term. Generally, the leases are triple net leases, which require us to pay all or a portion of the cost of insurance, taxes and utilities. As a result of assigning our interest in obligations under property leases as a condition of the refranchising of certain restaurants, we are also contingently liable for payment of approximately 80 domestic leases.

Nine of our 12 North America QC Centers are located in leased space. Our remaining three locations are in buildings we own. Additionally, our corporate office and our printing operations located in Louisville, KY are in buildings owned by us.

On September 17, 2020, we announced plans to open an office in Atlanta, Georgia which will be in a leased space. Certain corporate functions, including menu innovation, marketing, digital customer experience, human resources, diversity, equity and inclusion, communications, operations, development, financial planning and analysis and investor relations will be relocated to the Atlanta office. Our information technology, finance, supply chain, and legal teams will continue to operate in our Louisville, Kentucky office, which remains critical to our success. We also maintain a Company-owned office outside of London, United Kingdom ("UK"), where our international operations are managed. For additional information, see "Note 17" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements".

At December 27, 2020, we leased and subleased approximately 385 Papa John's restaurant sites to franchisees in the UK. The initial lease terms on the franchised sites in the United Kingdom are generally 15 years. The initial lease terms of the franchisee subleases are generally five to ten years. We own a full-service QC Center in the UK. See "Note 3" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information.

**Item 3. Legal Proceedings**

The information contained in "Note 20, Litigation, Commitments and Contingencies" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" is incorporated by reference herein.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures**

None.

**Information about our Executive Officers**

Set forth below are the current executive officers of Papa John's:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age (a)</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>First Elected Executive Officer</b>
Robert M. Lynch	44	President and Chief Executive Officer	2019
Ann B. Gugino	48	Chief Financial Officer	2020
Marvin Boakye	47	Chief People and Diversity Officer	2019
Amanda Clark	41	Chief Development Officer	2020
James A. Norberg	55	Chief Operating Officer, North America	2019
Caroline M. Oyler	55	Chief Legal and Risk Officer	2018
Jack H. Swaysland	56	Chief Operating Officer, International	2018
C. Max Wetzel	44	Chief Commercial and Marketing Officer	2019

(a) Ages are as of January 1, 2021

Robert M. Lynch was appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer in August 2019. Mr. Lynch joined Papa John's after serving as President of Arby's Restaurant Group since August 2017, and served as Brand President and Chief Marketing Officer from August 2013 to August 2017. Prior to Arby's, he served as Vice President of Marketing at Taco Bell. Mr. Lynch has more than 20 years combined experience in the QSR and consumer packaged goods industries, and also held senior roles at HJ Heinz Company and Procter & Gamble.

Ann B. Gugino was appointed to Chief Financial Officer in October 2020. Ms. Gugino joins Papa John's from Target Corporation where she served as Senior Vice President, Financing Planning and Analysis since 2018, providing overall strategy, guidance, and direction in the development and execution of Target's planning, analysis and capital investment portfolios. Prior to Target, Ms. Gugino spent 18 years at Patterson Companies Inc., including four years as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Marvin Boakye was appointed Chief People and Diversity Officer in November 2019 after previously serving as Papa John's first Chief People Officer since January 2019. Mr. Boakye joined Papa John's after serving as Vice President of Human Resources at petroleum company Andeavor, in Texas where he also led diversity, equity and inclusion. Prior to Andeavor, he was Chief Human Resources Officer for MTS Allstream, a telecommunications company now part of Bell Canada from June 2015 to March 2017. Prior to that, Mr. Boakye held senior human resources positions for organizations across the United States, Canada and Latin America, including at Goodyear, the Pulte Group and The Home Depot.

Amanda Clark was appointed as Chief Development Officer in February 2020. Ms. Clark joins Papa John's from Taco Bell, where she was responsible for design, consumer facing technology, merchandising, customer marketing, new concepts and company development, serving as Executive Vice President Restaurant Experience from February 2019 to February 2020, Senior Vice President North America Development from May 2017 to February 2019 and the General Manager for Taco Bell Canada from November 2015 to August 2018. Previously, Ms. Clark served in roles of increasing responsibility in Brand Marketing at Taco Bell since 2013. Prior to joining Taco Bell, Ms. Clark worked at Procter and Gamble in various marketing roles for nearly 12 years on P&G brands including Olay, Pampers and Oral-B.

James A. Norberg was named Chief Operating Officer, North America in November 2019 after serving as Chief Restaurant Operations Officer since July 2019. Mr. Norberg, a QSR industry veteran, spent more than 30 years of his career at McDonald's. His most recent role there was Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer from 2014 to 2015,

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where he managed operations for 14,000 U.S. restaurants. After his long tenure at McDonald's, Norberg served as an independent strategic advisor from 2015 to 2019 to organizations in the restaurant, hospitality, entertainment and consumer goods categories. He serves as a member of the board of directors for Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, the world's premier nonprofit organization dedicated to achieving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer workplace equality.

Caroline M. Oyler was appointed Chief Legal and Risk Officer in October 2018. Ms. Oyler previously served as Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer from May 2018 to October 2018 and Senior Vice President, General Counsel from May 2014 to May 2018. Additionally, Ms. Oyler served as Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs from November 2012 to May 2014. She joined the Company's legal department in 1999. She also served as interim head of Human Resources from December 2008 to September 2009. Prior to joining Papa John's, Ms. Oyler practiced law with the firm Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs LLP.

Jack H. Swaysland was appointed to Chief Operating Officer, International in May 2018 after serving as Senior Vice President, International since April 2016. Mr. Swaysland previously served as Vice President, International from April 2015 to April 2016, Regional Vice President, International from May 2013 to April 2015, and Vice President, International Operations from April 2010 to May 2013. Mr. Swaysland has served in various capacities of increasing responsibility in International Operations since joining the Company 13 years ago.

C. Max Wetzel was appointed Chief Commercial and Marketing Officer in November 2019. Mr. Wetzel joined Papa John's after serving as Vice President Consumer Brands and Business Transformation – U.S. and Canada since July 2018 at PPG Architectural Coatings. Also at PPG, Mr. Wetzel served as Vice President Home Centers and Global Strategic Marketing from June 2016 through July 2018 and as General Manager Home Centers and Chief Marketing Officer U.S. & Canada starting in November 2014. Prior to PPG, Mr. Wetzel worked at H.J. Heinz Company for ten years in a variety of domestic and global roles, leading consumer-driven businesses, developing brand marketing strategies and delivering profitable growth.

There are no family relationships between any of the directors or executive officers of the Company.

## PART II

### Item 5. Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Our common stock trades on The NASDAQ Global Select Market tier of The NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol PZZA. As of February 17, 2021, there were 1,297 record holders of common stock. However, there are significantly more beneficial owners of our common stock than there are record holders.

On January 25, 2021, our Board of Directors declared a first quarter dividend of \$0.225 per share of common stock (approximately \$7.4 million was paid to common stockholders and \$1.1 million was paid as “pass through” dividends to holders of Series B Preferred Stock on an “as converted basis”). The first quarter dividend on outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock was also declared on January 25, 2021. The common stock dividend was paid on February 19, 2021 to stockholders of record as of the close of business on February 8, 2021. The first quarter preferred dividend of \$2.3 million will be paid to holders of Series B Preferred Stock on April 1, 2021.

We anticipate continuing the payment of quarterly cash dividends. The actual amount of such dividends is subject to declaration by our Board of Directors and will depend upon future earnings, results of operations, capital requirements, our financial condition and other relevant factors. There can be no assurance that the Company will continue to pay quarterly cash dividends at the current rate or at all.

Our Board of Directors has authorized the repurchase of up to \$75.0 million of common stock under a share repurchase program that began on November 4, 2020 and is effective through December 31, 2021. In fiscal 2020, a total of 32,000 shares with an aggregate cost of \$2.7 million and an average price of \$83.90 per share were repurchased under this program. Funding for the share repurchase program has been provided through our operating cash flows.

The following table summarizes our repurchase activity by fiscal period during the fourth quarter ended December 27, 2020 (in thousands, except per share amounts):

<b>Fiscal Period</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased</b>	<b>Average Price Paid per Share</b>	<b>Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs</b>	<b>Maximum Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs</b>
11/23/2020 - 12/27/2020	32	\$ 83.90	32	\$ 72,299

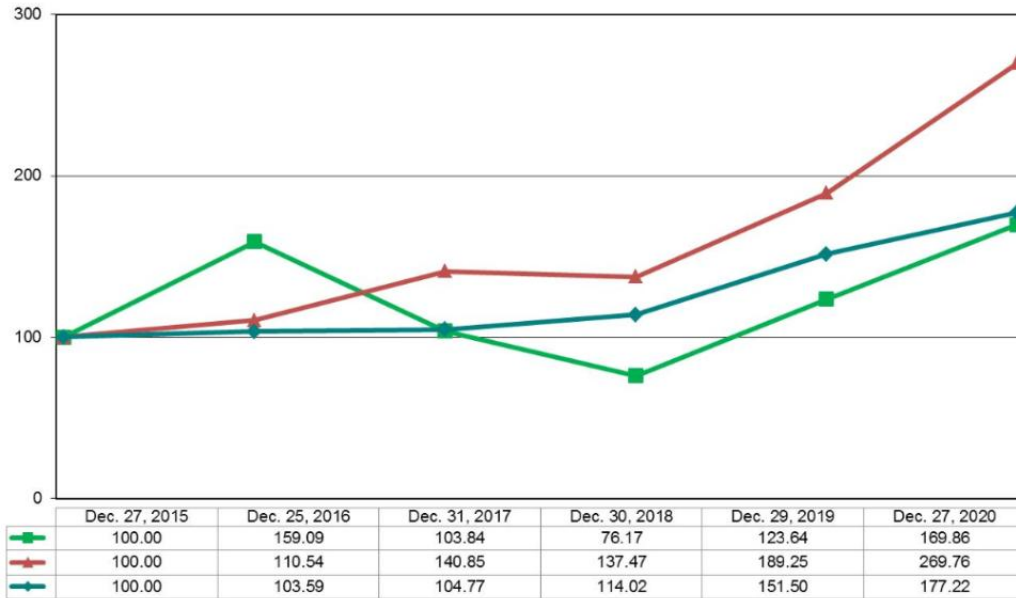
Subsequent to year-end, we acquired an additional 15,000 shares at an aggregate cost of \$1.3 million. Approximately \$71.0 million remained available under the Company’s share repurchase program as of February 17, 2021.

The Company utilizes a written trading plan under Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, from time to time to facilitate the repurchase of shares of our common stock under this share repurchase program. There can be no assurance that we will repurchase shares of our common stock either through a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan or otherwise.

The information required by Item 5 with respect to securities authorized for issuance under equity compensation plans is incorporated herein by reference to Part III, Item 12 of this Form 10-K.

**Stock Performance Graph**

The following performance graph compares the cumulative shareholder return of the Company's common stock for the five-year period between December 27, 2015 and December 27, 2020 to (i) the NASDAQ Stock Market (U.S.) Index and (ii) a group of the Company's peers consisting of U.S. companies listed on NASDAQ with standard industry classification (SIC) codes 5800-5899 (eating and drinking places). Management believes the companies included in this peer group appropriately reflect the scope of the Company's operations and match the competitive market in which the Company operates. The graph assumes the value of the investments in the Company's common stock and in each index was \$100 on December 27, 2015, and that all dividends were reinvested.



- Papa John's International, Inc.
- ▲ NASDAQ Stock Market (U.S. Companies)
- ◆ NASDAQ Stocks (SIC 5800-5899 U.S. Companies) Eating and Drinking

**Item 6. Selected Financial Data**

The selected financial data presented for each of the past five fiscal years were derived from our audited Consolidated Financial Statements. The selected financial data below should be read in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and the “Consolidated Financial Statements” and Notes thereto included in Item 7 and Item 8, respectively, of this Form 10-K.

(In thousands, except per share data)	Year Ended (1)				
	Dec. 27, 2020 52 weeks	Dec. 29, 2019 52 weeks	Dec. 30, 2018 52 weeks	Dec. 31, 2017 53 weeks	Dec. 30, 2016 52 weeks
<b>Income Statement Data</b>					
Revenues:					
Domestic Company-owned restaurant sales	\$ 700,757	\$ 652,053	\$ 692,380	\$ 816,718	\$ 815,931
North America franchise royalties and fees (2)	96,732	71,828	79,293	106,729	102,980
North America commissary revenues	680,793	612,652	609,866	673,712	623,883
International revenues (3)	123,963	102,924	110,349	114,021	100,904
Other revenues	210,989	179,791	170,983	72,179	69,922
Total revenues	1,813,234	1,619,248	1,662,871	1,783,359	1,713,620
Refranchising and impairment gains/(losses), net	—	4,739	(289)	(1,674)	10,222
Operating income (4)	90,253	24,535	31,553	151,017	164,523
Legal settlement	—	—	—	—	898
Investment income	2,131	1,104	817	608	785
Interest expense	(17,022)	(20,593)	(25,673)	(11,283)	(7,397)
Income before income taxes	75,362	5,046	6,697	140,342	158,809
Income tax expense (benefit)	14,748	(611)	2,624	33,817	49,717
Net income before attribution to noncontrolling interests	60,614	5,657	4,073	106,525	109,092
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests (5)	(2,682)	(791)	(1,599)	(4,233)	(6,272)
Net income attributable to the Company	\$ 57,932	\$ 4,866	\$ 2,474	\$ 102,292	\$ 102,820
Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders	\$ 41,737	\$ (7,633)	\$ 2,474	\$ 103,288	\$ 102,967
Basic earnings (loss) per common share	\$ 1.29	\$ (0.24)	\$ 0.08	\$ 2.86	\$ 2.76
Diluted earnings (loss) per common share	\$ 1.28	\$ (0.24)	\$ 0.08	\$ 2.83	\$ 2.74
Basic weighted average common shares outstanding	32,421	31,632	32,083	36,083	37,253
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding	32,717	31,632	32,299	36,522	37,608
Dividends declared per common share	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.85	\$ 0.75
<b>Balance Sheet Data</b>					
Total assets	\$ 872,770	\$ 730,721	\$ 595,897	\$ 555,553	\$ 512,565
Total debt	350,000	370,000	625,009	470,000	300,575
Series B Convertible Preferred Stock	251,901	251,133	—	—	—
Redeemable noncontrolling interests	6,474	5,785	5,464	6,738	8,461
Total stockholders’ (deficit) equity	(266,939)	(316,656)	(304,013)	(105,954)	9,801

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- (1) We operate on a 52-53 week fiscal year ending on the last Sunday of December of each year. All fiscal years consisted of 52 weeks with the exception of the 2017 fiscal year which consisted of 53 weeks. The additional week resulted in additional revenues of approximately \$30.9 million and additional operating income of approximately \$6.2 million, or \$0.17 per diluted share for 2017.
- (2) North America franchise royalties were derived from franchised restaurant sales of \$2.49 billion in 2020, \$2.10 billion in 2019, \$2.13 billion in 2018, \$2.30 billion in 2017 (\$2.25 billion on a 52-week basis), and \$2.20 billion in 2016.
- (3) Includes international royalties and fees, restaurant sales for international Company-owned restaurants, and international commissary revenues. International royalties were derived from franchised restaurant sales of \$994.8 million in 2020, \$884.4 million in 2019, \$832.3 million in 2018, \$761.3 million in 2017 (\$744.0 million on a 52-week basis), and \$648.9 million in 2016. Restaurant sales for international Company-owned restaurants were \$6.2 million in 2018, \$13.7 million in 2017 (\$13.4 million on a 52-week basis), and \$14.5 million in 2016 (none in 2020 and 2019).
- (4) The Company incurred \$14.2 million and \$25.3 million of Special charges in 2019 and 2018, respectively. See “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” for additional information.
- (5) Represents the noncontrolling interests’ allocation of income for our joint venture arrangements.

**Item 7. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations****Introduction**

Papa John’s International, Inc. (referred to as the “Company,” “Papa John’s” or in the first-person notations of “we,” “us” and “our”) began operations in 1984. At December 27, 2020, there were 5,400 Papa John’s restaurants in operation, consisting of 588 Company-owned and 4,812 franchised restaurants. Our revenues are derived from retail sales of pizza and other food and beverage products to the general public by Company-owned restaurants, franchise royalties, and sales of franchise and development rights. Additionally, approximately 46% to 48% of our North America revenues in each of the last two fiscal years were derived from sales to franchisees of various items including food and paper products from our domestic Quality Control Centers (“QC Centers”), printing and promotional items and information systems equipment, and software and related services. We also derive revenues from the operation of our international QC center in the United Kingdom and from contributions received by Papa John’s Marketing Fund (“PJMF”), our national marketing fund. We believe that in addition to supporting both Company and franchised profitability and growth, these activities contribute to product quality and consistency throughout the Papa John’s system.

We strive to obtain high-quality restaurant sites with good access and visibility and to enhance the appearance and quality of our restaurants. We believe these factors improve our image and brand awareness. Detailed below are progressions of our Domestic and International restaurants over the last two fiscal years:

	<b>Domestic Company-owned</b>	<b>Franchised North America</b>	<b>Total North America</b>	<b>International</b>	<b>System-wide</b>
Beginning - December 30, 2018	645	2,692	3,337	1,966	5,303
Opened	3	76	79	233	312
Closed	(5)	(123)	(128)	(92)	(220)
Acquired	1	46	47	-	47
Sold	(46)	(1)	(47)	-	(47)
Ending - December 29, 2019	598	2,690	3,288	2,107	5,395
Opened	2	62	64	156	220
Closed	(12)	(51)	(63)	(152)	(215)
Ending - December 27, 2020	588	2,701	3,289	2,111	5,400

**Recent Business Matters**

In 2020, the Company focused on executing the strategic priorities and building a foundation for long-term success, including the specific items described below.

*Innovation.* Beginning in the fourth quarter of 2019, the Company has embraced a new culture of innovation, delivering multiple new product innovations and marketing successes. In 2020, we launched Garlic Parmesan Crust Pizza, toasted handheld “Papadias” flatbread-style sandwiches, Jalapeno Popper Rolls, and the Shaq-a-Roni pizza. Of particular highlight, the Shaq-a-Roni pizza was launched as part of a fund-raiser for The Papa John’s Foundation, in collaboration with Shaquille O’Neal, our board member and restaurant owner. The Shaq-a-Roni pizza was a differentiated, high-value product, with a charitable component that supported meaningful causes aligned with our brand’s values. In the fourth quarter of 2020, we also tested Epic Stuffed Crust, which was officially launched in 2021. Epic Stuffed Crust was the Company’s biggest new product launch to date and builds upon our original fresh, never frozen, six-ingredient dough. Product innovation is not only an important part of our plan for 2021 to continue building sales but also represents another platform for our longer-term strategy and opportunity.



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*Novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”).* The COVID-19 outbreak began to result in disruption in certain of our international markets beginning in January 2020. Subsequently, the outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 and declared a national emergency in the United States during the same timeframe. The outbreak has presented evolving risks and developments domestically and internationally, as well as new opportunities for our business. Our delivery and carryout model has positioned us to continue to experience strong demand for our products. To ensure we can continue to meet the demand of our customers, we continue to monitor our supply chain and have not experienced material disruptions.

Our primary focus continues to be the safety of our team members, franchisees, and customers. The Company has taken steps to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing extra health and safety measures across our business, including No Contact Delivery and enhanced cleaning and sanitization measures, for the protection of both our customers and team members. We have expanded our employee benefits to include free virtual doctor visits and paid special bonuses to many of our front-line team members. This is in addition to existing employee benefits of no-cost mental health support, affordable health plan options and access to the Papa John’s Team Member Emergency Relief Fund, if and when needed. In addition, the Company hired thousands of new restaurant team members in 2020 to help meet demand and serve our customers.

Of the Company’s 2,111 international franchised stores, approximately 65 stores were temporarily closed as of December 27, 2020, principally in Latin America and Europe, in accordance with government policies. In North America, almost all traditional restaurants remain open and fully operational. A number of non-traditional restaurants located in universities and stadiums are temporarily closed; these non-traditional locations are not significant to our revenues and operating results.

We believe the pandemic has accelerated our previously announced efforts to innovate and bring new and former customers to the Papa John’s system. We believe that even after the pandemic-related restrictions are lifted we will benefit from the increase in customers we have experienced due to our menu innovation, customer loyalty programs and our offerings of high-quality pizza and other menu items. Due to the substantial uncertainty related to the effects of the pandemic and its duration, we are unable to predict the specific impact the pandemic and related restrictions will have on our results of operations, liquidity or long-term financial condition, including whether and to what extent the increased demand for our products will continue. For a discussion of the risks to our business presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, see Item 1A. Risk Factors of this Form 10-K.

*Strategic Corporate Reorganization for Long-term Growth.* In the third quarter of 2020, we announced plans to open an office in Atlanta, Georgia located in Three Ballpark Center at The Battery Atlanta in the summer of 2021. The Atlanta office is part of a broader strategic reorganization of corporate functions reflecting the Company’s ongoing transformation into a brand and culture that can effectively and efficiently deliver on the Company’s purpose, values and strategic business priorities. Affected employees who do not relocate to Atlanta have been offered a separation package. As a result, we expect to incur certain one-time corporate reorganization costs of approximately \$15.0 to \$20.0 million related to employee severance and transition, recruitment and relocation and other third-party costs through 2021. Of that amount, we incurred costs of approximately \$6.0 million in 2020.

## **Presentation of Financial Results**

### **Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates**

The results of operations are based on our Consolidated Financial Statements, which were prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”). The preparation of Consolidated Financial Statements requires management to select accounting policies for critical accounting areas as well as estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements. The Company’s significant accounting policies, including recently issued accounting pronouncements, are more fully described in “Note 2” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.” Significant changes in assumptions and/or conditions in our critical accounting policies could materially impact the operating results. We have identified the following accounting policies and related judgments as critical to understanding the results of our operations:

#### *Allowance for Credit Losses on Accounts and Franchisee Notes Receivable*

As of December 27, 2020, accounts receivable was \$93.8 million with an allowance for credit losses of \$3.6 million and franchisee notes receivable was \$51.1 million with an allowance for credit losses of \$3.2 million. As of December 29, 2019, accounts receivable was \$77.8 million with an allowance for credit losses of \$7.3 million and franchisee notes receivable was \$44.4 million with an allowance for credit losses of \$3.6 million. Estimates of expected credit losses, even if remote, are based upon historical account write-off trends, facts about the current financial condition of the debtor, forecasts of future operating results based upon current trends of select operating metrics, and macroeconomic factors. The allowance for credit losses on franchisee note receivables is based on review of each franchisee’s economic performance and market conditions after consideration of the fair value of our underlying collateral rights (e.g., underlying franchisee business, property and equipment) and any guarantees. Credit quality is monitored through the timing of payments compared to the prescribed payment terms and known facts regarding the financial condition of the franchisee or customer. Account and note receivable balances are charged off against the allowance after recovery efforts have ceased.

#### *Insurance Reserves*

Our insurance programs for workers’ compensation, owned and non-owned automobiles, general liability, property, and health insurance coverage provided to our employees are funded by the Company up to certain retention levels under our retention programs. Retention limits generally range from \$1,000 to \$1.0 million.

As of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, our insurance reserves were \$82.0 million and \$75.2 million, respectively. Losses are accrued based upon undiscounted estimates of the liability for claims incurred and for events that have occurred but have not been reported using certain third-party actuarial projections and our claims loss experience. The determination of the recorded insurance reserves is highly judgmental and complex due to the significant uncertainty in the potential value of reported claims and the number and potential value of incurred but not reported claims, the application of significant judgment in making those estimates and the use of various actuarial valuation methods. The estimated insurance claims losses could be significantly affected should the frequency or ultimate cost of claims differ significantly from historical trends used to estimate the insurance reserves recorded by the Company. The Company records estimated losses above retention within its reserve with a corresponding receivable for expected amounts due from insurance carriers.

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*Intangible Assets — Goodwill*

We evaluate goodwill annually in the fourth quarter or whenever we identify certain triggering events or circumstances that would more-likely-than-not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. Such tests are completed separately with respect to the goodwill of each of our reporting units. We may perform a qualitative assessment or move directly to the quantitative assessment for any reporting unit in any period if we believe that it is more efficient or if impairment indicators exist.

We elected to perform a qualitative assessment for our operations in the fourth quarter of 2020. As a result of our qualitative analyses, we determined that it was more-likely-than-not that the fair values of our reporting units were greater than their carrying amounts. Subsequent to completing our goodwill impairment tests, no indicators of impairment were identified. See “Note 12” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for additional information.

*Income Tax Accounts and Tax Reserves*

Papa John’s is subject to income taxes in the United States and several foreign jurisdictions. Significant judgment is required in determining Papa John’s provision for income taxes and the related assets and liabilities. The provision for income taxes includes income taxes paid, currently payable or receivable and those deferred.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on differences between financial reporting and tax basis of assets and liabilities and are measured using enacted tax rates and laws that are expected to be in effect when the differences reverse. Deferred tax assets are also recognized for the estimated future effects of tax attribute carryforwards (e.g., net operating losses, capital losses, and foreign tax credits). The effect on deferred taxes of changes in tax rates is recognized in the period in which the new tax rate is enacted. Valuation allowances are established when necessary on a jurisdictional basis to reduce deferred tax assets to the amounts we expect to realize.

Tax authorities periodically audit the Company. We record reserves and related interest and penalties for identified exposures as income tax expense. We evaluate these issues and adjust for events, such as statute of limitations expirations, court rulings or audit settlements, which may impact our ultimate payment for such exposures. We recognized a decrease in income tax expense of \$500,000 and \$400,000 in 2020 and 2019, respectively, associated with the finalization of certain income tax matters. See “Note 18” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for additional information.

**Fiscal Year**

Our fiscal year ends on the last Sunday in December of each year. All fiscal years presented in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements consist of 52 weeks.

## Results of Operations

### 2020 Compared to 2019

This section of this Form 10-K generally discusses fiscal 2020 and 2019 items and year-to-year comparisons between fiscal 2020 and 2019. Discussions of 2018 items and year-to-year comparisons between fiscal 2019 and 2018 that are not included in this Form 10-K can be found in “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in Part II, Item 7 of the Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2019.

*Discussion of Revenues.* Consolidated revenues increased \$194.0 million, or 12.0%, to \$1.81 billion in 2020, compared to \$1.62 billion in 2019. Revenues are summarized in the following table (dollars in thousands).

	Year Ended		Increase	Percent Change
	Dec. 27, 2020	Dec. 29, 2019		
Domestic Company-owned restaurant sales	\$ 700,757	\$ 652,053	\$ 48,704	7.5 %
North America franchise royalties and fees	96,732	71,828	24,904	34.7 %
North America commissary revenues	680,793	612,652	68,141	11.1 %
International revenues	123,963	102,924	21,039	20.4 %
Other revenues	210,989	179,791	31,198	17.4 %
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,813,234</b>	<b>\$ 1,619,248</b>	<b>\$ 193,986</b>	<b>12.0 %</b>

Domestic Company-owned restaurant sales increased \$48.7 million, or 7.5%, in 2020. Excluding the impact of refranchising 46 restaurants in 2019 primarily located in South Florida and Georgia, Domestic Company-owned restaurant sales increased \$79.2 million, or 12.7%.

The increase was primarily due to positive comparable sales of 14.2%, partially offset by the 2019 favorable impact from the expiration of customer rewards associated with our Papa Rewards loyalty program of \$6.0 million. “Comparable sales” represents the change in year-over-year sales for the same base of restaurants for the same fiscal periods.

North America franchise royalties and fees increased \$24.9 million, or 34.7%, in 2020. Excluding the impact of refranchising, North America franchise royalties and fees increased \$22.9 million, or 31.9%. The increase was primarily due to positive comparable sales of 18.6%. Franchise royalties and fees in 2020 also reflect a higher effective royalty rate due to lower temporary royalty relief which was part of our franchise assistance program (see “Temporary Franchise Support”).

North America franchise restaurant sales increased 18.6% to \$2.49 billion for 2020 compared to prior year. North America franchise restaurant sales are not included in Company revenues; however, our North America franchise royalties are derived from these sales.

North America commissary revenues increased \$68.1 million, or 11.1%, primarily due to higher volumes and pricing associated with higher commodities costs, primarily cheese.

International revenues increased \$21.0 million, or 20.4%, in 2020 primarily due to higher PJUK commissary revenues and higher royalties from higher comparable sales of 12.6%.

International franchise restaurant sales increased 15.5% to \$1.0 billion in 2020, excluding the impact of foreign currency, primarily due to increases in comparable sales. International franchise restaurant sales are not included in Company revenues; however, our international royalty revenue is derived from these sales.

Other revenues, which primarily includes our North America marketing funds, online and mobile ordering business and our wholly-owned print and promotions subsidiary, increased \$31.2 million, or 17.4% in 2020 primarily due to higher marketing fund revenues from an increase in franchise sales and an increase in the national marketing fund contribution rate in 2020 and higher online revenues from increased restaurant sales.

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*Discussion of Operating Results*

Operating income is summarized in the following table on a reporting segment basis. Operating income increased approximately \$65.7 million for the year ended December 27, 2020 as compared to the prior year. Alongside the GAAP operating income data, we have included “adjusted” operating income to exclude Special items. Special items for 2020 include strategic corporate reorganization costs associated with our new office in Atlanta, Georgia projected to open in the summer of 2021. The reconciliation of GAAP to non-GAAP financial results, as well as the Special items, are included in “Items Impacting Comparability; Non-GAAP Measures.” We believe these non-GAAP measures are important for comparability purposes.

(In thousands)	Year Ended						
	Reported Dec. 27, 2020	Special items in 2020	Adjusted Dec. 27, 2020	Reported Dec. 29, 2019	Special items in 2019	Adjusted Dec. 29, 2019	Adjusted Increase (Decrease)
Domestic Company-owned restaurants	\$ 37,049	\$ —	\$ 37,049	\$ 33,957	\$ (4,739)	\$ 29,218	\$ 7,831
North America franchising	89,801	—	89,801	64,362	—	64,362	25,439
North America commissaries	33,185	—	33,185	30,690	—	30,690	2,495
International	24,034	—	24,034	18,738	—	18,738	5,296
All others	7,043	—	7,043	(1,966)	—	(1,966)	9,009
Unallocated corporate expenses	(100,069)	5,985	(94,084)	(120,280)	14,221	(106,059)	11,975
Elimination of intersegment profits	(790)	—	(790)	(966)	—	(966)	176
<b>Adjusted operating income</b>	<b>\$ 90,253</b>	<b>\$ 5,985</b>	<b>\$ 96,238</b>	<b>\$ 24,535</b>	<b>\$ 9,482</b>	<b>\$ 34,017</b>	<b>\$ 62,221</b>

The increase in operating income of \$65.7 million, and increase in adjusted operating income of \$62.2 million in 2020, excluding Special items, was primarily due to the following:

- **Domestic Company-owned Restaurants Segment.** Domestic Company-owned restaurants operating income increased \$7.8 million for 2020 as compared to the prior year comparable period. The increase was primarily due to higher profits from positive comparable sales of 14.2%, partially offset by labor initiatives and bonus expenses, including a special end-of-year bonus for front-line team members, and higher commodities costs. Additionally, 2019 benefited from the expiration of customer rewards associated with our Papa Rewards loyalty program of \$6.0 million.
- **North America Franchising Segment.** North America franchising operating income increased \$25.4 million for 2020, primarily due to higher comparable sales of 18.6%. The fiscal year 2020 also benefited from a higher effective royalty rate compared to 2019 primarily due to lower royalty relief in 2020 as discussed in “Temporary Franchise Support.”
- **North America Commissaries Segment.** North America commissaries operating income increased \$2.5 million in 2020, primarily due to higher profits from higher volumes, partially offset by the bonus for front-line team members.
- **International Segment.** International operating income increased \$5.3 million for 2020 compared to the prior year primarily due to higher royalty revenue, PJUK commissary income attributable to increased units and higher comparable sales and lower travel costs due to COVID-19. These increases were partially offset by lower revenues received from certain franchisees as a result of royalty support, higher bonuses and the unfavorable impact of foreign exchange rates.
- **All Others.** All Others operating income increased \$9.0 million primarily due to higher online revenues, partially offset by timing of marketing spend in the prior year.

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- **Unallocated Corporate Expenses.** Unallocated corporate expenses decreased approximately \$12.0 million in 2020 compared to 2019 primarily due to lower marketing fund investments of \$12.5 million as discussed in “Temporary Franchise Support”.

*Review of Consolidated Results*

*Revenues.* For the reasons discussed above, consolidated revenues increased \$194.0 million, or 12.0%, to \$1.81 billion in 2020, compared to \$1.62 billion in 2019.

(\$ in thousands)	Year Ended				
	December 27, 2020		December 29, 2019		Increase (Decrease)
		% of Related Revenues		% of Related Revenues	
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Domestic Company-owned restaurant sales	\$ 700,757		\$ 652,053		
North America franchise royalties and fees	96,732		71,828		
North America commissary revenues	680,793		612,652		
International revenues	123,963		102,924		
Other revenues	210,989		179,791		
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,813,234</b>		<b>1,619,248</b>		
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>					
Operating costs (excluding depreciation and amortization shown separately below):					
Domestic Company-owned restaurant expenses	563,799	80.5%	526,237	80.7%	(0.2%)
North America commissary expenses	630,937	92.7%	569,180	92.9%	(0.2%)
International expenses	73,994	59.7%	57,702	56.1%	3.6%
Other expenses	200,304	94.9%	175,592	97.7%	(2.8%)
General and administrative expenses	204,242	11.3%	223,460	13.8%	(2.5%)
Depreciation and amortization	49,705	2.7%	47,281	2.9%	(0.2%)
Total costs and expenses	1,722,981	95.0%	1,599,452	98.8%	(3.8%)
Refranchising gains	-	0.0%	4,739	0.3%	(0.3%)
Operating income	90,253	5.0%	24,535	1.5%	3.5%
Investment income	2,131	0.1%	1,104	0.1%	0.0%
Interest expense	(17,022)	(0.9%)	(20,593)	(1.3%)	0.4%
Income before income taxes	\$ 75,362	4.2%	\$ 5,046	0.3%	3.9%

*Costs and expenses.* Total costs and expenses were approximately \$1.7 billion, or 95.0% of total revenues in 2020 compared to \$1.6 billion, or 98.8%, in 2019. The decrease in total costs and expenses, as a percentage of revenues, was primarily due to the following:

Domestic Company-owned restaurants expenses were \$563.8 million in 2020, or 80.5% of related revenues, as compared to the prior year expenses of \$526.2 million, or 80.7% of related revenues, in 2019. The 0.2% decrease, as a percentage of revenues, was primarily due to lower food costs, including the favorable impact of current year promotions which more than offset higher commodities costs and lower operating expenses on higher sales. These decreases were partially offset by higher bonus expense and the 2019 favorable impact of the expiration of customer rewards with our Papa Rewards loyalty program.

North America commissary expenses were \$630.9 million in 2020, or 92.7% of related revenues compared to \$569.2 million in 2019, or 92.9% of related revenues in 2019. The 0.2% decrease in expenses, as a percentage of related revenues, was primarily due to lower operating costs on higher volumes and lower delivery costs.

International expenses were \$74.0 million in 2020, or 59.7% of related revenues, compared to prior year expenses of \$57.7 million, or 56.1% of related revenues in 2019. The increase of 3.6% in expenses, as a percentage of related revenues, was primarily due to the higher mix of United Kingdom commissary revenues which have a lower overall margin and lower revenues resulting from increased royalty support provided to certain franchisees.

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Other expenses were \$200.3 million in 2020, or 94.9% of related revenues, compared to prior year expenses of \$175.6 million, or 97.7% of related revenues in 2019. The 2.8% decrease in expenses, as a percentage of related revenues, was primarily due to higher margins from our online and mobile ordering business, partially offset by lower revenues at our printing subsidiary.

General and administrative (“G&A”) expenses were \$204.2 million, or 11.3% of revenues for 2020 compared to \$223.5 million, or 13.8% of revenues for 2019. G&A expenses consisted of the following (dollars in thousands):

	Year Ended	
	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Administrative expenses (a)	\$ 185,202	\$ 179,122
Special items (b) (c)	5,985	13,859
Other general expenses (d)	13,055	30,479
General and administrative expenses	<u>\$ 204,242</u>	<u>\$ 223,460</u>

- (a) The increase in administrative expenses of \$6.1 million for the year ended December 27, 2020 compared to prior year was primarily due to higher management incentive costs, partially offset by reduced travel costs due to COVID-19 restrictions and lower professional and consulting fees.
- (b) Represents \$6.0 million in strategic reorganization costs for the year ended December 27, 2020 associated with our new office in Atlanta, Georgia projected to open in the summer of 2021. See “Note 17” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for additional information.
- (c) The Special items for the year ended December 29, 2019 include the following:
- (1) \$5.9 million of legal and advisory fees primarily associated with the review of a wide range of strategic opportunities that culminated in a strategic investment in the Company by funds affiliated with, or managed by, Starboard Value LP (“Starboard”);
  - (2) \$5.6 million related to a one-time mark-to-market adjustment from the increase in value of the Starboard option to purchase shares of the Company’s Series B Convertible Preferred Stock (“Series B Preferred Stock”) that culminated in the purchase of \$50.0 million of Series B Preferred Stock in late March. See “Note 7” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for additional information; and
  - (3) \$2.4 million that includes severance costs for the Company’s former CEO as well as costs related to the termination of a license agreement for intellectual property no longer being utilized.
- (d) The decrease in other general expenses of \$17.4 million was primarily due to lower discretionary marketing fund investments and lower provisions for uncollectible accounts and notes receivable.

See “Items Impacting Comparability; Non-GAAP Measures” for additional information regarding the Special items.

*Depreciation and amortization.* Depreciation and amortization expense was \$49.7 million, or 2.7% of revenues in 2020, as compared to \$47.3 million, or 2.9% of revenues for 2019.

*Refranchising gains.* Refranchising gains of \$4.7 million in 2019 were primarily associated with the refranchising of 19 Company-owned restaurants in Georgia and 24 Company-owned restaurants in South Florida. See “Note 11” of “Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements” for additional information.

*Interest expense.* Interest expense decreased approximately \$3.6 million for the year ended December 27, 2020 primarily due to a decrease in the average outstanding debt balance and lower interest rates. Total debt outstanding was \$350.0 million as of December 27, 2020. Outstanding debt at December 27, 2020 decreased \$20.0 million from December 29, 2019 primarily due to repayments on our secured term loan facility.

*Income before income taxes.* Income before income taxes was \$75.4 million in 2020, compared to \$5.0 million in 2019, or an increase of \$70.4 million due to the reasons discussed above.

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*Income tax expense (benefit).* The effective income tax rate was 19.6% for 2020, compared to (12.1%) for 2019. The effective rate was higher in 2020 due to the impact of similar tax credit amounts on higher income before income taxes. The 2019 income tax rate included a non-deductible \$5.9 million expense associated with the one-time mark-to-market increase in the fair value of the Starboard option to purchase Series B Preferred Stock, as previously mentioned. The following compares income tax expense (benefit) for 2020 and 2019:

	Year Ended	
	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Income before income taxes	\$ 75,362	\$ 5,046
Income tax expense (benefit)	\$ 14,748	\$ (611)
Effective tax rate	19.6%	(12.1%)

See “Items Impacting Comparability; Non-GAAP Measures” and “Note 7” and “Note 18” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements,” for additional information.

*Diluted earnings (loss) per share.* Diluted earnings per common share was \$1.28 for 2020, compared to diluted loss per common share of \$0.24 in 2019, representing an increase of \$1.52. Excluding Special items, adjusted diluted earnings per common share was \$1.40, compared to \$0.03 in 2019, representing an increase of \$1.37. Diluted earnings per common share was reduced by approximately \$0.07 per share in 2020 (\$0.09 impact when excluding Special items) due to income attributable to participating securities, including Series B Preferred Stockholders, based on undistributed earnings for 2020. See “Note 8” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for additional information.



**Items Impacting Comparability; Non-GAAP Measures**

The table below reconciles our GAAP financial results to our adjusted financial results, which are non-GAAP measures (collectively defined as “Special items”). The non-GAAP adjusted results shown below and within this Form 10-K, which exclude the Special items, should not be construed as a substitute for or a better indicator of the Company’s performance than the Company’s GAAP results. Management believes presenting certain financial information excluding the Special items is important for purposes of comparison to prior year results. In addition, management uses these metrics to evaluate the Company’s underlying operating performance and to analyze trends. See “Results of Operations” for further analysis regarding the impact of the Special items, and “Note 8”, “Note 11”, and “Note 18” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements,” respectively, for additional information about the Special items.

Note: Effective as of the first quarter of 2020, the Company modified its presentation of adjusted (non-GAAP) financial results to no longer present certain financial assistance provided to the North America system in the form of royalty relief and discretionary marketing fund investments as Special charges. This financial assistance, which began in the third quarter of 2018 in response to declining sales in North America, concluded in the third quarter of 2020, as announced in a formal plan in July 2019. The adjusted financial results for the Company’s fiscal year ended December 29, 2019 have been revised to remove these items. See “Temporary Franchise Support” below for additional information regarding this change in presentation.

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Year Ended	
	Dec. 27, 2020	Dec. 29, 2019 (Note)
GAAP operating income	\$ 90,253	\$ 24,535
Strategic corporate reorganization costs (1)	5,985	—
Special charges:		
Legal and advisory fees (2)	—	5,922
Mark-to-market adjustment on option valuation (3)	—	5,914
Other costs (4)	—	2,385
Refranchising gains	—	(4,739)
Adjusted operating income	\$ 96,238	\$ 34,017
GAAP net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders	\$ 41,737	\$ (7,633)
Strategic corporate reorganization costs (1)	5,985	—
Special charges:		
Legal and advisory fees (2)	—	5,922
Mark-to-market adjustment on option valuation (3)	—	5,914
Other costs (4)	—	2,385
Refranchising gains	—	(4,739)
Tax effect of Non-GAAP items (5) (6)	(1,346)	(799)
Two-class impact for Non-GAAP adjustment to net income (7)	(662)	—
Adjusted net income attributable to common shareholders	\$ 45,714	\$ 1,050
GAAP diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ 1.28	\$ (0.24)
Strategic corporate reorganization costs (1)	0.18	—
Special charges:		
Legal and advisory fees (2)	—	0.19
Mark-to-market adjustment on option valuation (3)	—	0.19
Other costs (4)	—	0.07
Refranchising gains	—	(0.15)
Tax effect of Non-GAAP items (5) (6)	(0.04)	(0.03)
Two-class impact for Non-GAAP adjustment to earnings per share (7)	(0.02)	—
Adjusted diluted earnings per share	\$ 1.40	\$ 0.03

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- (1) Represents strategic corporate reorganization costs associated with our new office in Atlanta, Georgia projected to open in the summer of 2021.
- (2) Represents advisory and legal costs incurred in 2019 primarily associated with the review of a wide range of strategic opportunities that culminated in the strategic investment in the Company by affiliates of Starboard Value LP (“Starboard”) as well as certain litigation costs associated with legal proceedings initiated by our founder.
- (3) Represents a one-time mark-to-market adjustment of \$5.9 million primarily related to the increase in the fair value of the Starboard option to purchase Series B Preferred Stock that culminated in the purchase of additional preferred stock in late March 2019.
- (4) Includes severance costs for our former CEO and costs related to the termination of a license agreement for intellectual property no longer being utilized.
- (5) The tax effect for strategic corporate reorganization costs was calculated by applying the 2020 full year marginal tax rate of 22.5%.
- (6) The tax effect for Legal and advisory fees, Other costs, and Refranchising gains was calculated by applying the 2019 full year marginal rate of 22.4%. The mark-to-market adjustment on option valuation was non-deductible for tax purposes.
- (7) Represents an adjustment to the allocation of undistributed earnings to participating securities for the strategic corporate reorganization costs.

The non-GAAP adjusted results shown above and within this document, which exclude the Special items, should not be construed as a substitute for or a better indicator of the Company’s performance than the Company’s GAAP results. Management believes presenting certain financial information excluding the Special items is important for purposes of comparability. In addition, management uses these metrics to evaluate the Company’s underlying operating performance and to analyze trends. See “Results of Operations” for further analysis regarding the impact of the Special items.

*Temporary Franchise Support.* Beginning in the third quarter of 2018, the Company began providing various forms of support and financial assistance to the North America franchise system in response to declining North America sales. In July 2019, the Company announced a formal relief program to provide our North America franchisees with certainty regarding the availability and schedule of the temporary relief which concluded in the third quarter of 2020. The Company provided royalty relief and discretionary marketing fund investments to franchisees in North America, included herein as “Temporary Franchise Support” of \$29.3 million (or approximately \$0.69 per diluted share) for 2020, compared to \$46.6 million (or approximately \$1.14 per diluted share) for 2019, as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended	
	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Royalty relief (a)	\$ 14,270	\$ 19,096
Marketing fund investments (b)	15,000	27,500
Total Temporary Franchise Support	\$ 29,270	\$ 46,596

- (a) Represents financial assistance provided to the North America system in the form of temporary royalty reductions that are above and beyond the level of franchise assistance the Company would incur in the ordinary course of its business. These royalty reductions are not an expense, but rather consist of the amount of waived royalties that the Company would otherwise have been entitled to absent the waiver. The waived royalties are not included in North America franchise royalties and fees revenues.
- (b) Represents incremental discretionary marketing fund investments in excess of contractual Company-owned restaurant-level contributions, which were made as part of the temporary financial support package to our franchisees. The marketing fund investments are included in Unallocated corporate expenses.

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In addition, we present free cash flow in this report, which is a non-GAAP measure. We define free cash flow as net cash provided by operating activities (from the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows) less the purchases of property and equipment and dividends paid to preferred stockholders. We view free cash flow as an important measure because it is one factor that management uses in determining the amount of cash available for discretionary investment. Free cash flow is not a term defined by GAAP, and as a result, our measure of free cash flow might not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies. Free cash flow should not be construed as a substitute for or a better indicator of our performance than the Company's GAAP measures. See "Liquidity and Capital Resources" for a reconciliation of free cash flow to the most directly comparable GAAP measure.

The presentation of the non-GAAP measures in this report is made alongside the most directly comparable GAAP measures.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

### Debt

The Company has a secured revolving credit facility with available borrowings of \$400.0 million (the "Revolving Facility"), of which \$10.0 million was outstanding as of December 27, 2020, and a secured term loan facility with an outstanding balance of \$340.0 million (the "Term Loan Facility") and together with the Revolving Facility, the "PJI Facilities". Including outstanding letters of credit, the Company's remaining availability under the PJI Facilities at December 27, 2020 was approximately \$344.2 million.

We use interest rate swaps to hedge against the effects of potential interest rate increases on borrowings under our PJI Facilities. As of December 27, 2020, we have the following interest rate swap agreements with a total notional value of \$350.0 million:

Effective Dates	Floating Rate Debt	Fixed Rates
April 30, 2018 through April 30, 2023	\$ 55 million	2.33 %
April 30, 2018 through April 30, 2023	\$ 35 million	2.36 %
April 30, 2018 through April 30, 2023	\$ 35 million	2.34 %
January 30, 2018 through August 30, 2022	\$ 100 million	1.99 %
January 30, 2018 through August 30, 2022	\$ 75 million	1.99 %
January 30, 2018 through August 30, 2022	\$ 50 million	2.00 %

The weighted average interest rates on our PJI Facilities, including the impact of the interest rate swap agreements, were 3.8% and 4.1% in fiscal 2020 and 2019, respectively.

Our PJI Credit Agreement contains affirmative and negative covenants, including the following financial covenants, as defined by the PJI Credit Agreement:

	Permitted Ratio	Actual Ratio for the Year Ended December 27, 2020
Leverage ratio	Not to exceed 4.75 to 1.0	2.4 to 1.0
Interest coverage ratio	Not less than 2.25 to 1.0	3.8 to 1.0

Our leverage ratio is defined as outstanding debt divided by consolidated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization ("EBITDA") for the most recent four fiscal quarters. Our interest coverage ratio is defined as the sum of consolidated EBITDA and consolidated rental expense for the most recent four fiscal quarters divided by the sum of consolidated interest expense and consolidated rental expense for the most recent four fiscal quarters. We were in compliance with all financial covenants as of December 27, 2020.

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Papa John's Marketing Fund, Inc. ("PJMF") our national marketing fund, has a \$20.0 million revolving line of credit (the "PJMF Revolving Facility") pursuant to a Revolving Loan Agreement, dated September 30, 2015 (as amended, the "PJMF Loan Agreement") with U.S. Bank National Association, as lender. There was no balance outstanding under the PJMF Revolving Facility as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019. The PJMF operating results and the related debt outstanding do not impact the financial covenants under the PJI Credit Agreement.

See "Note 13" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information.

*Cash Flows*

Cash flow provided by operating activities was \$186.4 million for 2020 as compared to \$61.7 million in 2019. The increase of approximately \$124.7 million was primarily due to higher net income and favorable working capital changes including timing of payments.

Cash flow used in investing activities was \$41.1 million in 2020 as compared to \$32.6 million for the same period in 2019. The increase in cash flow used in investing activities was primarily due to proceeds from the refranchising of restaurants in 2019. This was somewhat offset by higher note repayments from franchisees in 2020.

Cash flow used in financing activities was \$43.5 million in 2020 as compared to \$34.6 million for the same period in 2019. The increase in cash flow used in financing activities was primarily due to the timing of repayments on our Term Loan Facility, repurchases of common stock and higher dividends paid to preferred stockholders, offset by higher cash proceeds received from the exercise of stock options. In 2019, we also received \$252.5 million in proceeds from the issuance of Series B Preferred Stock, which was primarily used for net repayments on our Revolving Facility of \$240.0 million.

The Company recorded dividends of approximately \$43.1 million for the year ended December 27, 2020 consisting of the following:

- \$29.4 million paid to common stockholders (\$0.90 per share);
- \$4.6 million in common stock "pass-through" dividends paid to Series B Preferred Stockholders on an as-converted basis (\$0.90 per share); and
- \$9.1 million in preferred dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock (3.6% of the investment per annum).

The Company paid common stock dividends of \$28.6 million, common stock "pass-through" dividends to Series B Preferred Stockholders of \$4.3 million, and \$5.7 million in preferred dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock in 2019.

On January 25, 2021, our Board of Directors declared a first quarter dividend of \$0.225 per share of common stock (approximately \$7.4 million was paid to common stockholders and \$1.1 million was paid as "pass through" dividends to holders of Series B Preferred Stock on an as-converted basis). The first quarter dividend on outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock was also declared on January 25, 2021. The common stock dividend was paid on February 19, 2021 to stockholders of record as of the close of business on February 8, 2021. The first quarter preferred dividend of \$2.3 million will be paid to holders of Series B Preferred Stock on April 1, 2021.

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We also use free cash flow, a non-GAAP measure, defined as net cash provided by operating activities (from the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows) less the purchases of property and equipment and dividends paid to preferred stockholders. We view free cash flow as an important measure because it is one factor that management uses in determining the amount of cash available for discretionary investment. Free cash flow is not a term defined by GAAP, and as a result, our measure of free cash flow might not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies. Free cash flow should not be construed as a substitute for or a better indicator of the Company's performance than the Company's GAAP measures. See "Items Impacting Comparability; Non-GAAP Measures" for a discussion of free cash flow. The Company's free cash flow for the last two years was as follows (in thousands):

	Year Ended	
	Dec. 27, 2020	Dec. 29, 2019
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 186,439	\$ 61,749
Purchases of property and equipment	(35,652)	(37,711)
Dividends paid to preferred stockholders	(13,649)	(10,020)
Free cash flow	<u>\$ 137,138</u>	<u>\$ 14,018</u>

*Contractual Obligations*

Contractual obligations and payments as of December 27, 2020 due by year are as follows (in thousands):

	Payments Due by Period				
	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	After 5 Years	Total
<b>Contractual Obligations:</b>					
Term Loan Facility (1)	\$ 20,000	\$ 320,000	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 340,000
Revolving Facility (1)	—	10,000	—	—	10,000
Interest payments (2)	12,669	10,048	1,602	—	24,319
Total debt	<u>\$ 32,669</u>	<u>\$ 340,048</u>	<u>\$ 1,602</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 374,319</u>
Operating leases (3)	32,456	58,224	39,072	61,024	190,776
Finance leases (3)	4,348	8,682	5,092	1,054	19,176
Total contractual obligations	<u>\$ 69,473</u>	<u>\$ 406,954</u>	<u>\$ 45,766</u>	<u>\$ 62,078</u>	<u>\$ 584,271</u>

- (1) We utilize interest rate swaps to hedge our variable rate debt. At December 27, 2020, we had an interest rate swap liability of \$13.5 million recorded in Accrued expenses and other current liabilities and Other long-term liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheet.
- (2) Interest payments assume an outstanding debt balance of \$350.0 million. Interest payments are calculated based on LIBOR plus the applicable margin in effect at December 27, 2020, and includes the impact of interest rate swap agreements in effect. The actual interest rates on our variable rate debt and the amount of our indebtedness could vary from those used to compute the above interest payments. See "Note 13" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information concerning our debt and credit arrangements.
- (3) See "Note 3" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information. The above amounts exclude future expected sub-lease income in the United Kingdom.

The above table does not include the following:

- Unrecognized tax benefits of \$1.0 million since we are not able to make reasonable estimates of the period of cash settlement with respect to the taxing authority.
- Redeemable noncontrolling interests of \$6.5 million as we are not able to predict the timing of the redemptions.
- Expected minimum lease payments of approximately \$33.0 million associated with our new office in Atlanta, Georgia which is expected to commence in fiscal 2021.

### Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

We guarantee leases for certain Papa John's North American franchisees who have purchased restaurants that were previously Company-owned. We are contingently liable on these leases. These leases have varying terms, the latest of which expires in 2036. As of December 27, 2020, the estimated maximum amount of undiscounted payments the Company could be required to make in the event of nonpayment by the primary lessees was approximately \$14.3 million.

We have certain other commercial commitments where payment is contingent upon the occurrence of certain events. With our insurance programs, we are party to standby letters of credit with off-balance sheet risk as follows by year (in thousands):

	Amount of Commitment Expiration Per Period				Total
	Less than 1 Year	1-3 Years	3-5 Years	After 5 Years	
Standby letters of credit	\$ 45,840	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 45,840

See "Note 13" and "Note 20" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information related to contractual and other commitments.

### Forward-Looking Statements

Certain matters discussed in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and other Company communications that are not statements of historical fact constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the federal securities laws. Generally, the use of words such as "expect," "intend," "estimate," "believe," "anticipate," "will," "forecast," "plan," "project," or similar words identify forward-looking statements that we intend to be included within the safe harbor protections provided by the federal securities laws. Such forward-looking statements include or may relate to projections or guidance concerning business performance, revenue, earnings, cash flow, earnings per share, share repurchases, the financial impact of the temporary business opportunities, disruptions and temporary changes in demand we are experiencing related to the current outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including our cash on hand and access to our credit facilities, commodity costs, currency fluctuations, profit margins, unit growth, unit level performance, capital expenditures, restaurant and franchise development, the duration of changes in consumer behavior caused by the pandemic, the duration and number of temporary store closures, our plans to open an office in Atlanta, the associated reorganization costs and the related organizational, employment and real estate changes that are expected, royalty relief, the effectiveness of menu innovations and other business initiatives, marketing efforts, liquidity, compliance with debt covenants, strategic decisions and actions, dividends, effective tax rates, regulatory changes and impacts, adoption of new accounting standards, and other financial and operational measures. Such statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions, which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from those matters expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements. The risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are involved in our forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to:

- the ability of the Company to manage difficulties and opportunities associated with or related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including risks related to: the impact of governmental restrictions on freedom of movement and business operations including quarantines, social distancing requirements and mandatory business closures; the virus's impact on the availability of our workforce; the potential disruption of our supply chain; changes in consumer demand or behavior; impact of delayed new store openings, both domestically and internationally; the overall contraction in global economic activity, including increased unemployment; our liquidity position; our ability to navigate changing governmental programs and regulations relating to the pandemic; and the increased risk of phishing and other cyber-attacks;
- the assumption that the store closures in international markets and non-traditional restaurants in North America are not expected to be permanent; the assumption that our delivery restaurants will continue to stay open and be deemed essential businesses by national, state and local authorities in most of the jurisdictions in which we operate;

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- the uncertainty of whether and to what extent the increase in demand for our products that we are currently experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic will continue following a cessation of the effects of the virus in the future;
- our ability to successfully implement or fully realize the anticipated benefits of our corporate reorganization and new office in Atlanta, Georgia and corporate reorganization in the timeframes we desire or within the expected range of expenses, or at all. In addition, turnover in our support teams due to our relocation to Georgia could distract our employees, decrease employee morale, harm our reputation, and negatively impact the overall performance of our corporate support teams;
- increased costs for branding initiatives and launching new advertising and marketing campaigns and promotions to improve consumer sentiment and sales trends, and the risk that such initiatives will not be effective;
- risks related to social media, including publicity adversely and rapidly impacting our brand and reputation;
- aggressive changes in pricing or other marketing or promotional strategies by competitors, which may adversely affect sales and profitability; and new product and concept developments by food industry competitors;
- changes in consumer preferences or consumer buying habits, including the growing popularity of delivery aggregators, as well as changes in general economic conditions or other factors that may affect consumer confidence and discretionary spending, including higher unemployment;
- the adverse impact on the Company or our results caused by global health concerns, product recalls, food quality or safety issues, incidences of foodborne illness, food contamination and other general public health concerns about our Company-owned or franchised restaurants or others in the restaurant industry;
- the effectiveness of our technology investments and changes in unit-level operations;
- the ability of the Company and its franchisees to meet planned growth targets and operate new and existing restaurants profitably, including difficulties finding qualified franchisees, store level employees or suitable sites;
- increases in labor costs, food costs or sustained higher other operating costs. This could include increased employee compensation, including as a result of changes in minimum wage, benefits, insurance, tax rates, new regulatory requirements or increasing compliance costs;
- increases in insurance claims and related costs for programs funded by the Company up to certain retention limits, including medical, owned and non-owned vehicles, workers' compensation, general liability and property;
- disruption of our supply chain or commissary operations which could be caused by our sole source of supply of mozzarella cheese, desserts, garlic cups or limited source of suppliers for other key ingredients or more generally due to weather, natural disasters including drought, disease, or geopolitical or other disruptions beyond our control, including COVID-19;
- increased risks associated with our international operations, including economic and political conditions and risks associated with the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union, instability or uncertainty in our international markets, especially emerging markets, fluctuations in currency exchange rates, difficulty in meeting planned sales targets and new store growth;
- the impact of current or future claims and litigation and our ability to comply with current, proposed or future legislation that could impact our business including compliance with the European Union General Data Protection Regulation;
- the Company's ability to continue to pay dividends to stockholders based upon profitability, cash flows and capital adequacy if restaurant sales and operating results decline;
- disruption of critical business or information technology systems, or those of our suppliers, and risks associated with systems failures and data privacy and security breaches, including theft of confidential Company, employee and customer information, including payment cards; and
- changes in Federal or state income, general and other tax laws, rules and regulations and changes in generally accepted accounting principles.

These and other risk factors are discussed in detail in “Part I. Item 1A. — Risk Factors” of this Annual Report on Form 10-K. We undertake no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of future events, new information or otherwise, except as required by law.

**Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk***Interest Rate Risk*

We are exposed to the impact of interest rate changes on our Revolving Facility and our Term Loan Facility, which comprise the PJI Facilities. We attempt to minimize interest rate risk exposure by fixing our interest rate through the utilization of interest rate swaps, which are derivative financial instruments. Our swaps are entered into with financial institutions that participate in the PJI Facilities. By using a derivative instrument to hedge exposures to changes in interest rates, we expose ourselves to credit risk due to the possible failure of the counterparty to perform under the terms of the derivative contract. We do not enter into contracts for trading purposes and do not use leveraged instruments. See “Note 13” of “Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements” for additional information on our debt obligations and derivative instruments.

*Foreign Currency Exchange Rate Risk*

We are exposed to foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations from our operations outside of the United States, which can adversely impact our revenues, net income and cash flows. Our international operations principally consist of distribution sales to franchised Papa John’s restaurants located in the United Kingdom and our franchise sales and support activities, which derive revenues from sales of franchise and development rights and the collection of royalties from our international franchisees. Approximately 6.8% of our 2020 revenues, 7.8% of our 2019 revenues and 8.3% of our revenues for 2018 were derived from these international operations.

We have not historically hedged our exposure to foreign currency fluctuations. Foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations had an unfavorable impact of approximately \$600,000 on our consolidated revenues in 2020 compared to an unfavorable impact of \$5.1 million in 2019. Foreign currency exchange rates had an unfavorable impact of \$1.0 million on our operating income in 2020 compared to an unfavorable impact of \$1.3 million in 2019. An additional 10% adverse change in the foreign currency rates for our international markets would result in an additional negative impact on annual revenue and operating income of approximately \$13.3 million and \$2.7 million, respectively.

*Commodity Price Risk*

In the ordinary course of business, the food and paper products we purchase, including cheese (our largest ingredient cost), are subject to seasonal fluctuations, weather, availability, demand and other factors that are beyond our control. We have pricing agreements with some of our vendors, including forward pricing agreements for a portion of our cheese purchases for our domestic Company-owned restaurants, which are accounted for as normal purchases; however, we still remain exposed to on-going commodity volatility.

The following table presents the actual average block price for cheese by quarter in 2020, 2019 and 2018. Also presented is the projected 2021 average block price by quarter (based on the February 17, 2021 Chicago Mercantile Exchange cheese futures prices for 2021):

	<u>2021</u> <u>Projected</u> <u>Market</u>	<u>2020</u> <u>Block</u> <u>Price</u>	<u>2019</u> <u>Block</u> <u>Price</u>	<u>2018</u> <u>Block</u> <u>Price</u>
Quarter 1	\$ 1.814	\$ 1.857	\$ 1.490	\$ 1.522
Quarter 2	1.802	1.679	1.696	1.607
Quarter 3	1.834	2.262	1.898	1.592
Quarter 4	1.818	2.235	1.984	1.487
Full Year	<u>\$ 1.817</u>	<u>\$ 2.008</u>	<u>\$ 1.767</u>	<u>\$ 1.552</u>



## **Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data**

### **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Stockholders and the Board of Directors of Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries

#### **Opinion on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Company) as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income (loss), stockholders' deficit and cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended December 27, 2020, and the related notes and financial statement schedule listed in the Index at Item 15(a) (collectively referred to as the "consolidated financial statements"). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company at December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the two years in the period ended December 27, 2020, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 27, 2020, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 Framework), and our report dated February 25, 2021, expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

#### **Adoption of ASU No. 2016-02**

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company changed its method of accounting for leases in 2019 due to the adoption of ASU No. 2016-02, *Leases*, as amended.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the 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 audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits 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. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

#### **Critical Audit Matters**

The critical audit matters communicated below are matters arising from the current period of the consolidated 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 consolidated 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 consolidated 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.

***Measurement and valuation of reserve for franchisee notes receivable***

*Description of the Matter*

As described in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company has a reserve for franchisee notes receivable of \$3.2 million (“Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivables”) against a gross balance of franchisee notes receivables of \$51.1 million at December 27, 2020. The Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivables is estimated to reduce the outstanding notes receivable for expected credit losses after consideration of the fair value of the Company’s collateral rights (e.g., underlying franchisee business, property and equipment) and any guarantees as well as a review of each franchisee’s economic performance, historical loss information, current market conditions, and future economic conditions.

Auditing the valuation of the Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivables is challenging due to the judgment inherent in estimating the fair value of the Company’s collateral rights, which has a significant effect on the measurement of the Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivables.

*How We Addressed the Matter in Our Audit*

We tested management’s controls related to the measurement and valuation of the Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivables. For example, we tested controls over management’s review of the progression of outstanding notes receivable and the Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivable and the overall review of the adequacy of the Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivable. Where judgment was exercised by management, our audit procedures included testing controls over management’s evaluation of the assumptions, including the fair value of the collateral rights and guarantees where collateral was taken or personal guarantee given in connection with issuance of the applicable note. Our control testing also considered management’s review over the completeness and accuracy of the underlying data used in evaluating the measurement and valuation of the Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivables.

To test the measurement and valuation of the Reserve for Franchisee Notes Receivables, our audit procedures included, among others, evaluating the status of collection of scheduled payments for outstanding notes receivables, analyzing unit economics for franchisees to identify indicators of their financial health, evaluating the estimates of collateral value, and the underlying data used by management. For example, to evaluate the estimates of collateral value, we compared management’s estimates to those of recently executed market transactions to understand potential market adjustments within the estimation process.

***Measurement and valuation of insurance reserves***

*Description of the Matter*

As described in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, as of December 27, 2020, the Company has \$82.0 million accrued for self-insurance reserves (“Insurance Reserves”). The Company is self-insured for certain obligations up to stated retention levels under its retention programs related to workers’ compensation, automobile, property and general liability programs and judgments and estimates are used by the Company in determining the potential value associated with reported claims and for events that have occurred but have not been reported.

Auditing the valuation of the Insurance Reserves was highly judgmental and complex due to the significant uncertainty in estimating the potential value of reported claims, estimating the number and potential value of incurred but not reported claims and the use of actuarial valuation methods. The reserve estimate is sensitive to actuarial assumptions (e.g., future emergence of losses, incurred but not reported claims) used to estimate the ultimate liability for reported claims and to estimate the fair value of claims that have been incurred but have not been reported.

*How We Addressed the Matter in Our Audit*

We tested controls related to the measurement and valuation of the Insurance Reserves. For example, we tested controls over management's review of the assumptions and methods used to establish the estimate, the underlying data, significant actuarial assumptions and the related reconciliations.

To test the measurement and valuation of the Insurance Reserves, our audit procedures included, among others, performing transactional testing over the completeness and accuracy of claims data and vouching payments made to third parties. Furthermore, we involved our actuarial specialists to assist in the evaluation of the key assumptions and methodologies used by management to determine the Insurance Reserves.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

We have served as the Company's auditor consecutively since 2019.

Louisville, Kentucky  
February 25, 2021

**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Stockholders and Board of Directors  
Papa John's International, Inc.:

*Opinion on the Consolidated Financial Statements*

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' deficit, and cash flows of Papa John's International, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) for the year ended December 30, 2018, and the related notes and financial statement schedule II (collectively, the consolidated financial statements). In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the results of operations of the Company and its cash flows for the year ended December 30, 2018, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

*Basis for Opinion*

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. 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 the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audit included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements. Our audit also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ KPMG LLP

We served as the Company's auditor from 2018 to 2019.

Louisville, Kentucky  
March 8, 2019

**Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Operations**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	Year ended		
	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019	December 30, 2018
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Domestic Company-owned restaurant sales	\$ 700,757	\$ 652,053	\$ 692,380
North America franchise royalties and fees	96,732	71,828	79,293
North America commissary revenues	680,793	612,652	609,866
International revenues	123,963	102,924	110,349
Other revenues	210,989	179,791	170,983
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>1,813,234</b>	<b>1,619,248</b>	<b>1,662,871</b>
<b>Costs and expenses:</b>			
Operating costs (excluding depreciation and amortization shown separately below):			
Domestic Company-owned restaurant expenses	563,799	526,237	577,658
North America commissary expenses	630,937	569,180	575,103
International expenses	73,994	57,702	67,775
Other expenses	200,304	175,592	170,556
General and administrative expenses	204,242	223,460	193,534
Depreciation and amortization	49,705	47,281	46,403
<b>Total costs and expenses</b>	<b>1,722,981</b>	<b>1,599,452</b>	<b>1,631,029</b>
Refranchising gains (losses)	—	4,739	(289)
<b>Operating income</b>	<b>90,253</b>	<b>24,535</b>	<b>31,553</b>
Investment income	2,131	1,104	817
Interest expense	(17,022)	(20,593)	(25,673)
<b>Income before income taxes</b>	<b>75,362</b>	<b>5,046</b>	<b>6,697</b>
Income tax expense (benefit)	14,748	(611)	2,624
<b>Net income before attribution to noncontrolling interests</b>	<b>60,614</b>	<b>5,657</b>	<b>4,073</b>
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests	(2,682)	(791)	(1,599)
<b>Net income attributable to the Company</b>	<b>\$ 57,932</b>	<b>\$ 4,866</b>	<b>\$ 2,474</b>
<b>Calculation of net income (loss) for earnings (loss) per share:</b>			
Net income attributable to the Company	\$ 57,932	\$ 4,866	\$ 2,474
Dividends paid to participating securities and accretion	(14,059)	(12,499)	—
Net income attributable to participating securities	(2,136)	—	—
Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders	<b>\$ 41,737</b>	<b>\$ (7,633)</b>	<b>\$ 2,474</b>
Basic earnings (loss) per common share	<b>\$ 1.29</b>	<b>\$ (0.24)</b>	<b>\$ 0.08</b>
Diluted earnings (loss) per common share	<b>\$ 1.28</b>	<b>\$ (0.24)</b>	<b>\$ 0.08</b>
Basic weighted average common shares outstanding	32,421	31,632	32,083
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding	32,717	31,632	32,299
Dividends declared per common share	<b>\$ 0.90</b>	<b>\$ 0.90</b>	<b>\$ 0.90</b>

See accompanying notes.

**Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss)**

(In thousands)	Year Ended		
	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019	December 30, 2018
Net income before attribution to noncontrolling interests	\$ 60,614	\$ 5,657	\$ 4,073
Other comprehensive loss, before tax:			
Foreign currency translation adjustments (1)	2,344	1,638	(4,903)
Interest rate swaps (2)	(7,517)	(10,783)	4,254
Other comprehensive loss, before tax	(5,173)	(9,145)	(649)
Income tax effect:			
Foreign currency translation adjustments (1)	(539)	(377)	1,110
Interest rate swaps (3)	1,729	2,480	(1,032)
Income tax effect (4)	1,190	2,103	78
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	(3,983)	(7,042)	(571)
Comprehensive income (loss) before attribution to noncontrolling interests	56,631	(1,385)	3,502
Less: comprehensive (income) loss, redeemable noncontrolling interests	(824)	519	488
Less: comprehensive (income), nonredeemable noncontrolling interests	(1,858)	(1,310)	(2,087)
Comprehensive income (loss) attributable to the Company	<u>\$ 53,949</u>	<u>\$ (2,176)</u>	<u>\$ 1,903</u>

- (1) On June 15, 2018, the Company refranchised 34 Company-owned restaurants and a quality control center located in China. In conjunction with the transaction, approximately \$1,300 of accumulated other comprehensive income and \$300 associated deferred tax related to foreign currency translation were reversed. See "Note 11" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information.
- (2) Amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive loss into interest expense included (\$5,068), \$660 and (\$22) for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018, respectively.
- (3) The income tax effects of amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive loss were \$1,140, (\$152), and \$5 for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018, respectively.
- (4) As of January 1, 2018, we adopted Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2018-02, "Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income," and reclassified stranded tax effects of approximately \$455 to retained earnings in the first quarter of 2018.

See accompanying notes.

**Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheets**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 130,204	\$ 27,911
Accounts receivable (less allowance for credit losses of \$3,622 in 2020 and \$7,341 in 2019)	90,135	70,462
Notes receivable, current portion	11,318	7,790
Income tax receivable	1,273	4,024
Inventories	30,265	27,529
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	43,212	43,830
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>306,407</b>	<b>181,546</b>
Property and equipment, net	200,895	211,741
Finance lease right-of-use assets, net	16,840	9,383
Operating lease right-of-use assets	148,110	148,229
Notes receivable, less current portion (less allowance for credit losses of \$3,211 in 2020 and \$3,572 in 2019)	36,538	33,010
Goodwill	80,791	80,340
Deferred income taxes	10,800	1,839
Other assets	72,389	64,633
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 872,770</b>	<b>\$ 730,721</b>
<b>Liabilities, Series B Convertible Preferred Stock, Redeemable noncontrolling interests and Stockholders' deficit</b>		
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 37,370	\$ 29,141
Income and other taxes payable	10,263	7,599
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	174,563	108,517
Current deferred revenue	19,590	17,673
Current finance lease liabilities	3,545	1,789
Current operating lease liabilities	23,538	23,226
Current portion of long-term debt	20,000	20,000
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>288,869</b>	<b>207,945</b>
Deferred revenue	13,664	14,722
Long-term finance lease liabilities	13,531	7,629
Long-term operating lease liabilities	124,666	125,297
Long-term debt, less current portion, net	328,292	347,290
Deferred income taxes	948	2,649
Other long-term liabilities	111,364	84,927
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>881,334</b>	<b>790,459</b>
<b>Series B Convertible Preferred Stock; \$0.01 par value; 260.0 shares authorized, 252.5 shares issued and outstanding at December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019</b>	<b>251,901</b>	<b>251,133</b>
<b>Redeemable noncontrolling interests</b>	<b>6,474</b>	<b>5,785</b>
<b>Stockholders' deficit:</b>		
Common stock (\$0.01 par value per share; issued 45,288 at December 27, 2020 and 44,748 at December 29, 2019)	453	447
Additional paid-in capital	254,103	219,047
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(14,168)	(10,185)
Retained earnings	219,158	205,697
Treasury stock (12,743 shares at December 27, 2020 and 12,854 shares at December 29, 2019, at cost)	(741,724)	(747,327)
<b>Total stockholders' deficit</b>	<b>(282,178)</b>	<b>(332,321)</b>
Noncontrolling interests in subsidiaries	15,239	15,665
<b>Total Stockholders' deficit</b>	<b>(266,939)</b>	<b>(316,656)</b>
<b>Total liabilities, Series B Convertible Preferred Stock, Redeemable noncontrolling interests and Stockholders' deficit</b>	<b>\$ 872,770</b>	<b>\$ 730,721</b>

See accompanying notes.

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**Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit**

(In thousands)	Papa John's International, Inc.							Noncontrolling Interests in Subsidiaries	Total Stockholders' Deficit
	Common Stock Outstanding	Common Stock	Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Retained Earnings	Treasury Stock			
<b>Balance at December 31, 2017</b>	33,931	\$ 442	\$ 184,785	\$ (2,117)	\$ 292,251	\$ (597,072)	\$ 15,757	\$ (105,954)	
Cumulative effect of adoption of ASU 2014-09 (1)	—	—	—	—	(24,359)	—	—	(24,359)	
<b>Adjusted balance at January 1, 2018</b>	33,931	442	184,785	(2,117)	267,892	(597,072)	15,757	(130,313)	
Net income (2)	—	—	—	—	2,474	—	1,874	4,348	
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	—	—	—	(571)	—	—	—	(571)	
Adoption of ASU 2018-02 (3)	—	—	—	(455)	455	—	—	—	
Cash dividends on common stock	—	—	145	—	(28,944)	—	—	(28,799)	
Exercise of stock options	75	1	2,698	—	—	—	—	2,699	
Acquisition of Company common stock	(2,697)	—	—	—	—	(158,049)	—	(158,049)	
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	9,936	—	—	—	—	9,936	
Issuance of restricted stock	56	—	(3,005)	—	—	3,005	—	—	
Tax effect of restricted stock awards	—	—	(1,521)	—	—	—	—	(1,521)	
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2,406)	(2,406)	
Other	7	—	(54)	—	305	412	—	663	
<b>Balance at December 30, 2018</b>	31,372	\$ 443	\$ 192,984	\$ (3,143)	\$ 242,182	\$ (751,704)	\$ 15,225	\$ (304,013)	
Net income (2)	—	—	—	—	4,866	—	1,310	6,176	
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	—	—	—	(7,042)	—	—	—	(7,042)	
Cash dividends on common stock	—	—	209	—	(28,761)	—	—	(28,552)	
Cash dividends on preferred stock	—	—	—	—	(10,020)	—	—	(10,020)	
Dividends declared on preferred stock	—	—	—	—	(2,273)	—	—	(2,273)	
Exercise of stock options	447	4	16,006	—	—	—	—	16,010	
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	15,303	—	—	—	—	15,303	
Issuance of restricted stock	63	—	(3,681)	—	—	3,681	—	—	
Tax effect of restricted stock awards	—	—	(1,433)	—	—	—	—	(1,433)	
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	—	—	—	(870)	(870)	
Other	12	—	(341)	—	(297)	696	—	58	
<b>Balance at December 29, 2019</b>	31,894	\$ 447	\$ 219,047	\$ (10,185)	\$ 205,697	\$ (747,327)	\$ 15,665	\$ (316,656)	



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**Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Deficit (continued)**

(In thousands)	Papa John's International, Inc.							Noncontrolling Interests in Subsidiaries	Total Stockholders' Deficit
	Common Stock Outstanding	Common Stock	Additional Paid-In Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss	Retained Earnings	Treasury Stock			
<b>Balance at December 29, 2019</b>	31,894	\$ 447	\$ 219,047	\$ (10,185)	\$ 205,697	\$ (747,327)	\$ 15,665	\$ (316,656)	
Cumulative effect of adoption: ASU 2016-13 (4)	—	—	—	—	(1,066)	—	—	(1,066)	
<b>Adjusted balance at December 30, 2019</b>	31,894	447	219,047	(10,185)	204,631	(747,327)	15,665	(317,722)	
Net income (2)	—	—	—	—	57,932	—	1,858	59,790	
Other comprehensive loss, net of tax	—	—	—	(3,983)	—	—	—	(3,983)	
Cash dividends on common stock	—	—	141	—	(29,503)	—	—	(29,362)	
Cash dividends on preferred stock	—	—	—	—	(13,649)	—	—	(13,649)	
Exercise of stock options	540	6	30,616	—	—	—	—	30,622	
Acquisition of Company common stock	(32)	—	—	—	—	(2,701)	—	(2,701)	
Stock-based compensation expense	—	—	16,310	—	—	—	—	16,310	
Issuance of restricted stock	119	—	(6,922)	—	—	6,922	—	—	
Tax effect of restricted stock awards	—	—	(3,974)	—	—	—	—	(3,974)	
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	—	—	—	—	—	—	(2,284)	(2,284)	
Other	24	—	(1,115)	—	(253)	1,382	—	14	
<b>Balance at December 27, 2020</b>	<u>32,545</u>	<u>\$ 453</u>	<u>\$ 254,103</u>	<u>\$ (14,168)</u>	<u>\$ 219,158</u>	<u>\$ (741,724)</u>	<u>\$ 15,239</u>	<u>\$ (266,939)</u>	

- (1) As of January 1, 2018, the Company adopted ASU 2014-09, "Revenue from Contracts with Customers".
- (2) Net income to the Company at December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018 excludes \$824, (\$519) and (\$488), respectively, allocable to the redeemable noncontrolling interests for our joint venture arrangements.
- (3) As of January 1, 2018, the Company adopted ASU 2018-02, "Reclassification of Certain Tax Effects from Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income," and reclassified stranded tax effects of approximately \$455 to retained earnings in the first quarter of 2018.
- (4) As of December 30, 2019, the Company adopted ASU 2016-13, "Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments". See "Note 2" of "Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements" for additional information.

At December 30, 2018, the accumulated other comprehensive loss of \$3,143 was comprised of net unrealized foreign currency translation loss of \$6,859 and a net unrealized gain on the interest rate swap agreements of \$3,716.

At December 29, 2019, the accumulated other comprehensive loss of \$10,185 was comprised of net unrealized foreign currency translation loss of \$5,598 and a net unrealized loss on the interest rate swap agreements of \$4,587.

At December 27, 2020, the accumulated other comprehensive loss of \$14,168 was comprised of net unrealized foreign currency translation loss of \$3,793 and a net unrealized loss on the interest rate swap agreements of \$10,375.

See accompanying notes.

**Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**

(In thousands)	Year ended		
	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019	December 30, 2018
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Net income before attribution to noncontrolling interests	\$ 60,614	\$ 5,657	\$ 4,073
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
(Credit) provision for allowance for credit losses on accounts and notes receivable	(4,734)	3,139	6,849
Depreciation and amortization	49,705	47,281	46,403
Deferred income taxes	(9,268)	(3,764)	1,620
Preferred stock option mark-to-market adjustment	—	5,914	—
Stock-based compensation expense	16,310	15,303	9,936
(Gain) loss on franchising	—	(4,739)	289
Other	2,257	3,203	5,677
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Accounts receivable	(22,420)	(6,181)	2,157
Income tax receivable	3,760	12,122	(12,157)
Inventories	(2,736)	(326)	3,093
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	2,884	1,367	3,795
Other assets and liabilities	20,879	(6,354)	1,464
Accounts payable	8,229	2,035	(400)
Income and other taxes payable	2,664	1,009	(3,971)
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	59,353	(11,331)	21,753
Deferred revenue	(1,058)	(2,586)	1,873
Net cash provided by operating activities	186,439	61,749	92,454
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Purchases of property and equipment	(35,652)	(37,711)	(42,028)
Notes issued	(16,589)	(15,864)	(10,463)
Repayments of notes issued	11,154	5,616	5,805
Proceeds from divestitures of restaurants	—	13,495	7,707
Other	16	1,889	180
Net cash used in investing activities	(41,071)	(32,575)	(38,799)
<b>Financing activities</b>			
Repayments of term loan	(20,000)	(15,000)	(20,000)
Net (repayments) proceeds of revolving credit facilities	—	(240,026)	163,585
Debt issuance costs	—	—	(1,913)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	30,622	16,010	2,699
Dividends paid to common stockholders	(29,362)	(28,552)	(28,985)
Dividends paid to preferred stockholders	(13,649)	(10,020)	—
Tax payments for equity award issuances	(3,974)	(1,433)	(1,521)
Acquisition of Company common stock	(2,701)	—	(158,049)
Proceeds from issuance of preferred stock	—	252,530	—
Issuance costs associated with preferred stock	—	(7,527)	—
Contributions from noncontrolling interests	—	840	—
Distributions to noncontrolling interests	(2,420)	(870)	(4,269)
Other	(1,977)	(526)	356
Net cash used in financing activities	(43,461)	(34,574)	(48,097)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	386	53	(191)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	102,293	(5,347)	5,367
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	27,911	33,258	27,891
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	\$ 130,204	\$ 27,911	\$ 33,258

See accompanying notes.

**Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements**

**1. Description of Business**

Papa John's International, Inc. (referred to as the "Company," "Papa John's" or in the first person notations of "we," "us" and "our"), operates and franchises pizza delivery and carryout restaurants under the trademark "Papa John's," in 48 countries and territories as of December 27, 2020. Our revenues are derived from retail sales of pizza and other food and beverage products to the general public by Company-owned restaurants, franchise royalties and sales of franchise and development rights, printing and promotional items and information systems equipment, and software and related services. We generated revenues from the operation of our Quality Control Centers ("QC Centers") which supply pizza sauce, dough, food products, paper products, smallwares and cleaning supplies to restaurants. We also derived revenue from contributions received by our North America Marketing funds.

**2. Significant Accounting Policies**

*Principles of Consolidation*

The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of Papa John's International, Inc. and its subsidiaries. All intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated.

*Fiscal Year*

Our fiscal year ends on the last Sunday in December of each year. All fiscal years presented consist of 52 weeks.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of Consolidated Financial Statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the Consolidated Financial Statements and accompanying notes. Significant items that are subject to such estimates and assumptions include the allowance for credit losses on accounts and notes receivable, intangible assets, contract assets and contract liabilities including the customer loyalty program obligation, right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, gift card breakage, insurance reserves and tax reserves. Although management bases its estimates on historical experience and assumptions that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, actual results could significantly differ from these estimates.

*Revenue Recognition*

Revenue is measured based on consideration specified in contracts with customers and excludes waivers or incentives and amounts collected on behalf of third parties, primarily sales tax. The Company recognizes revenue when it satisfies a performance obligation by transferring control over a product or service to a customer. Taxes assessed by a governmental authority that are both imposed on and concurrent with a specific revenue-producing transaction, that are collected by the Company from a customer, are excluded from revenue. Delivery costs, including freight associated with our domestic commissary and other sales, are accounted for as fulfillment costs and are included in operating costs.

The following describes principal activities, separated by major product or service, from which the Company generates its revenues:

*Domestic Company-owned Restaurant Sales*

The domestic Company-owned restaurants principally generate revenue from retail sales of high-quality pizza, Papadias, which are flatbread-style sandwiches, and side items including breadsticks, cheesesticks, chicken poppers and wings, dessert items and canned or bottled beverages. Revenues from Company-owned restaurants are recognized when the products are delivered to or carried out by customers.

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Our North American customer loyalty program, Papa Rewards, is a spend-based program that rewards customers with points for each purchase. Papa Rewards points are accumulated and redeemed for dollar off discounts (“Papa Dough”) to be used on future purchases within a six-month expiration window. The accrued liability in the Consolidated Balance Sheets, and corresponding reduction of Company-owned restaurant sales in the Consolidated Statements of Operations, is for the estimated reward redemptions at domestic Company-owned restaurants based upon estimated redemption patterns. The liability related to Papa Rewards is calculated using the estimated redemption value for which the points and accumulated rewards are expected to be redeemed. Revenue is recognized when the customer redeems the Papa Dough reward and when the points or Papa Dough reward expires.

### *Franchise Royalties and Fees*

Franchise royalties, which are based on a percentage of franchise restaurant sales, are recognized as sales occur. Any royalty reductions, including waivers or those offered as part of a new store development incentive or as incentive for other behaviors, including acceleration of restaurant remodels or equipment upgrades, are recognized at the same time as the related royalty, as they are not separately distinguishable from the full royalty rate. Our current standard franchise agreement requires the franchisee to pay a royalty fee of 5% of sales, and the majority of our existing franchised restaurants have a 5% contractual royalty rate in effect. Incentives offered from time to time, including new store incentives, will reduce the contractual royalty rate paid. Franchise royalties are billed on a monthly basis.

The majority of initial franchise license fees and area development exclusivity fees are from international locations. Initial franchise license fees are billed at the store opening date. Area development exclusivity fees are billed upon execution of the development agreements which grant the right to develop franchised restaurants in future periods in specific geographic areas. Area development exclusivity fees are included in Deferred revenue in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and allocated on a pro rata basis to all stores opened under that specific development agreement. The pre-opening services provided to franchisees do not contain separate and distinct performance obligations from the franchise right; thus, the fees collected will be amortized on a straight-line basis beginning at the store opening date through the term of the franchise agreement, which is typically 10 years. Franchise license renewal fees for both domestic and international locations, which generally occur every 10 years, are billed before the renewal date. Fees received for future license renewal periods are included in deferred revenue in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and amortized over the life of the renewal period.

The Company offers various incentive programs for franchisees including royalty incentives, new restaurant opening incentives (i.e. development incentives) and other support initiatives. Royalties and franchise fees sales are reduced to reflect any royalty incentives earned or granted under these programs that are in the form of discounts.

### *Commissary Revenues*

Commissary revenues are comprised of food and supplies sold to franchised restaurants and are recognized as revenue upon shipment of the related products to the franchisees. Payments are generally due within 30 days.

As noted above, there are various incentive programs available to franchisees related to new restaurant openings including discounts on initial commissary orders and new store equipment incentives, at substantially no cost to franchisees. Commissary revenues are reduced to reflect incentives in the form of direct discounts on initial commissary orders. The new store equipment incentive is also recorded as a reduction of commissary sales over the term of the incentive agreement, which is generally three to five years.

### *Other Revenues*

Franchise Marketing Fund revenues represent a required established percentage of monthly restaurant sales collected by Papa John’s Marketing Fund, Inc. (“PJMF”), which is our national marketing fund, and various other international and domestic marketing funds (“Co-op” or “Co-operative” Funds) where we have determined for purposes of accounting that we have control over the significant activities of the funds. PJMF funds its operations with ongoing financial support and contributions from domestic Papa John’s restaurants, of which approximately 80% are franchised restaurant members. Contributions are based on a percentage of monthly restaurant sales and are billed monthly. When we are determined to be the principal in these arrangements, advertising fund contributions and expenditures are reported on a gross basis in the

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Consolidated Statements of Operations. Our obligation related to these funds is to develop and conduct advertising activities in a specific country, region, or market, including the placement of electronic and print materials.

There are no expiration dates and we do not deduct non-usage fees from outstanding gift cards. While the Company and the franchisees continue to honor all gift cards presented for payment, the likelihood of redemption may be determined to be remote for certain cards due to long periods of inactivity. In these circumstances, the Company recognizes breakage revenue for amounts not subject to unclaimed property laws. Based upon our analysis of historical gift card redemption patterns, we can reasonably estimate the amount of gift cards for which redemption is remote. Breakage revenue is recognized over time in proportion to estimated redemption patterns as Other revenues.

Commissions on gift cards sold by third parties are recorded as a reduction to Deferred revenue and a reduction to Other revenues based upon estimated redemption patterns.

Fees for information services, including software maintenance fees, help desk fees, centralized call center fees, and online ordering fees are recognized as revenue as such services are provided and are included in Other revenues.

Revenues for printing, promotional items, and direct mail marketing services are recognized upon shipment of the related products to franchisees and other customers. Direct mail advertising discounts are also periodically offered by our Preferred Marketing Solutions subsidiary. Other revenues are reduced to reflect these advertising discounts.

Rental income, primarily derived from properties leased by the Company and subleased to franchisees in the United Kingdom, is recognized on a straight-line basis over the respective operating lease terms.

*Advertising and Related Costs*

Domestic Company-owned advertising and related costs of \$56.7 million, \$54.3 million and \$60.8 million in 2020, 2019, and 2018, respectively, include the costs of domestic Company-owned local restaurant activities such as mail coupons, door hangers and promotional items and advertising activities administered through PJMF and various local market cooperative advertising funds. PJMF is responsible for developing and conducting marketing and advertising for the domestic Papa John's system. The Co-op Funds are responsible for developing and conducting advertising activities in a specific market, including the placement of electronic and print materials developed by PJMF. During 2020 and 2019, the Company contributed additional amounts of \$15.0 million and \$27.5 million, respectively, to PJMF, representing incremental discretionary marketing fund investments in excess of contractual Company-owned restaurant-level contributions as part of our temporary financial support package to our franchisees. The marketing fund investments are included in General and administrative expenses within the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Operations.

*Leases*

Lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the expected life of the lease term for operating leases, whereas lease expense follows an accelerated expense recognition for finance leases. A lease term often includes option periods, available at the inception of the lease. Lease expense is comprised of operating and finance lease costs, short-term lease costs, and variable lease costs, which primarily include common area maintenance, real estate taxes, and insurance for the Company's real estate leases. Lease costs also include variable rent, which is primarily related to the Company's supply chain tractor and trailer leases that are based on a rate per mile.

The Company adopted ASU 2016-02 "Leases (Topic 842)" in the first quarter of 2019 and prior periods have not been restated and continue to be reported under the accounting standards in effect for those periods.

*Stock-Based Compensation*

Compensation expense for equity grants is estimated on the grant date, net of projected forfeitures, and is recognized over the vesting period (graded vesting over three years). Restricted stock is valued based on the market price of the Company's shares on the date of grant. Stock options are valued using a Black-Scholes option pricing model. Our specific assumptions for estimating the fair value of options are included in Note 21.

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*Cash Equivalents*

Cash equivalents consist of highly liquid investments with maturity of three months or less at date of purchase. These investments are carried at cost, which approximates fair value.

*Accounts Receivable*

Substantially all accounts receivable is due from franchisees for purchases of food, paper products, point of sale equipment, printing and promotional items, information systems and related services, marketing and royalties. Credit is extended based on an evaluation of the franchisee's financial condition and collateral is generally not required. An allowance for credit losses is an estimate, even if remote, based upon historical account write-off trends, facts about the current financial condition of the debtor, forecasts of future operating results based upon current trends of select operating metrics and macroeconomic factors. Account balances are charged off against the allowance after recovery efforts have ceased.

See *Recent Accounting Pronouncements* for information regarding the adoption and related accounting impact of ASU 2016-13, "Credit Losses", which was effective December 30, 2019.

*Notes Receivable*

The Company has provided financing to select domestic and international franchisees principally for use in the construction and development of their restaurants and for the purchase of restaurants from the Company or other franchisees. Most notes receivable bear interest at fixed or floating rates and are generally secured by the assets of each restaurant and the ownership interests in the franchise. The Company has provided long-term financing to certain franchisees with royalty payment plans. We establish an allowance for credit losses for franchisee notes receivables to reduce the outstanding notes receivable to their net realizable values based on a review of each franchisee's economic performance and market conditions after consideration of the fair value of our underlying collateral rights (e.g., underlying franchisee business, property and equipment) and any guarantees. Note balances are charged off against the allowance after recovery efforts have ceased.

Interest income recorded on franchisee loans was approximately \$2.1 million in 2020, \$800,000 in 2019 and \$750,000 in 2018 and is reported in Investment income in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Operations.

See *Recent Accounting Pronouncements* for information regarding the adoption and related accounting impact of ASU 2016-13, "Credit Losses", which was effective December 30, 2019.

*Inventories*

Inventories, which consist of food products, paper goods and supplies, smallwares, and printing and promotional items, are stated at the lower of cost, determined under the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method, or net realizable value.

*Property and Equipment*

Property and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is recorded using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets (generally five to ten years for restaurant, commissary and other equipment, twenty to forty years for buildings and improvements, and five years for technology and communication assets). Leasehold improvements are amortized over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the terms of the respective leases, including the first renewal period (generally five to ten years).

Depreciation expense was \$46.6 million in 2020, \$45.9 million in 2019 and \$45.6 million in 2018.

*Deferred Costs*

We capitalize certain information systems development and related costs that meet established criteria. Amounts capitalized, which are included in property and equipment, are amortized principally over periods not exceeding five years

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upon completion of the related information systems project. Total costs capitalized were approximately \$3.3 million in 2020, \$3.5 million in 2019 and \$4.3 million in 2018. The unamortized information systems development costs approximated \$10.5 million and \$11.5 million as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively.

### *Intangible Assets — Goodwill*

We evaluate goodwill annually in the fourth quarter or whenever we identify certain triggering events or circumstances that would more-likely-than-not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. Such tests are completed separately with respect to the goodwill of each of our reporting units, which includes our domestic Company-owned restaurants, United Kingdom (“PJUK”), China, and Preferred Marketing Solutions operations. We may perform a qualitative assessment or move directly to the quantitative assessment for any reporting unit in any period if we believe that it is more efficient or if impairment indicators exist.

We elected to perform a qualitative assessment for our domestic Company-owned restaurants, PJUK, China, and Preferred Marketing Solutions operations in the fourth quarter of 2020. As a result of our qualitative analyses, we determined that it was more-likely-than-not that the fair values of our reporting units were greater than their carrying amounts. Subsequent to completing our goodwill impairment tests, no indicators of impairment were identified. See Note 12 for additional information.

### *Deferred Income Tax Accounts and Tax Reserves*

We are subject to income taxes in the United States and several foreign jurisdictions. Significant judgment is required in determining the provision for income taxes and the related assets and liabilities. The provision for income taxes includes income taxes paid, currently payable or receivable and those deferred.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based on differences between financial reporting and tax basis of assets and liabilities and are measured using enacted tax rates and laws that are expected to be in effect when the differences reverse. Deferred tax assets are also recognized for the estimated future effects of tax attribute carryforwards (e.g., net operating losses, capital losses, and foreign tax credits). The effect on deferred taxes of changes in tax rates is recognized in the period in which the new tax rate is enacted. Valuation allowances are established when necessary on a jurisdictional basis to reduce deferred tax assets to the amounts we expect to realize.

Tax authorities periodically audit the Company. We record reserves and related interest and penalties for identified exposures as income tax expense. We evaluate these issues and adjust for events, such as statute of limitations expirations, court rulings or audit settlements, which may impact our ultimate payment for such exposures. See Note 18 for additional information.

### *Insurance Reserves*

Our insurance programs for workers’ compensation, owned and non-owned automobiles, general liability, property, and health insurance coverage provided to our employees are funded by the Company up to certain retention levels under our retention programs. Retention limits generally range from \$1,000 to \$1.0 million.

Losses are accrued based upon undiscounted estimates of the liability for claims incurred and for events that have occurred but have not been reported using certain third-party actuarial projections and our claims loss experience. The determination of the recorded insurance reserves is highly judgmental and complex due to the significant uncertainty in the potential value of reported claims and the number and potential value of incurred but not reported claims, the application of significant judgment in making those estimates and the use of various actuarial valuation methods. The estimated insurance claims losses could be significantly affected should the frequency or ultimate cost of claims differ significantly from historical trends used to estimate the insurance reserves recorded by the Company. The Company records estimated losses above retention within its reserve with a corresponding receivable for expected amounts due from insurance carriers.

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*Derivative Financial Instruments*

We recognize all derivatives on the balance sheet at fair value. At inception and on an ongoing basis, we assess whether each derivative that qualifies for hedge accounting continues to be highly effective in offsetting changes in the cash flows of the hedged item. If the derivative meets the hedge criteria as defined by certain accounting standards, depending on the nature of the hedge, changes in the fair value of the derivative are either offset against the change in fair value of assets, liabilities or firm commitments through earnings or recognized in accumulated other comprehensive income/(loss) until the hedged item is recognized in earnings.

In 2019, we reduced the notional value of our swaps by \$50.0 million as a result of paying down a substantial portion of debt under our Revolving Facility using the proceeds received from the sale of our Series B Convertible Preferred Stock (the “Series B Preferred Stock”). The termination of \$50.0 million of notional swap value was not significant to our results of operations.

We recognized (loss) income of (\$7.5) million ((\$5.8) million after tax) in 2020, (\$10.8) million ((\$8.3) million after tax) in 2019, and \$4.3 million (\$3.2 million after tax) in 2018 in other comprehensive loss for the net change in the fair value of our interest rate swaps. See Note 13 for additional information on our debt and credit arrangements.

*Noncontrolling Interests*

At December 27, 2020, the Company had four joint ventures consisting of 188 restaurants, which have noncontrolling interests. Consolidated net income is required to be reported separately at amounts attributable to both the Company and the noncontrolling interests. Additionally, disclosures are required to clearly identify and distinguish between the interests of the Company and the interests of the noncontrolling owners, including a disclosure on the face of the Consolidated Statements of Operations of income attributable to the noncontrolling interest holder.

The following summarizes the redemption feature, location and related accounting within the Consolidated Balance Sheets for these four joint venture arrangements:

<u>Type of Joint Venture Arrangement</u>	<u>Location within the Consolidated Balance Sheets</u>	<u>Recorded Value</u>
Joint ventures with no redemption feature	Permanent equity	Carrying value
Joint ventures with option to require the Company to purchase the noncontrolling interest - not currently redeemable or redemption not probable	Temporary equity	Carrying value

See Notes 10 and 11 for additional information regarding noncontrolling interests and divestitures.

*Foreign Currency Translation*

The local currency is the functional currency for each of our foreign subsidiaries. Revenues and expenses are translated into U.S. dollars using monthly average exchange rates, while assets and liabilities are translated using year-end exchange rates and historical rates. The resulting translation adjustments are included as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss, net of income taxes.

*Recent Accounting Pronouncements*

Financial Instruments – Credit Losses

The Company adopted ASU 2016-13, “*Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments*,” (“ASU 2016-13”) as of December 30, 2019 (the first day of fiscal 2020) under the modified retrospective transition method. Topic 326 requires measurement and recognition of expected versus incurred losses for financial assets held. Financial instruments subject to ASU 2016-13 include trade accounts receivable, notes receivable



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and interest receivable (classified as Other assets in the Consolidated Balance Sheets) from franchisees. The impact of the adoption was not material to our consolidated financial statements.

Estimates of expected credit losses, even if remote, are based upon historical account write-off trends, facts about the current financial condition of the debtor, forecasts of future operating results based upon current trends of select operating metrics, and macroeconomic factors. Credit quality is monitored through the timing of payments compared to the prescribed payment terms and known facts regarding the financial condition of the franchisee or customer. Accounts and notes receivable balances are charged off against the allowance for credit losses after recovery efforts have ceased.

The following table summarizes changes in our allowances for credit losses for accounts receivable, notes receivable and interest receivable:

(in thousands)	Accounts Receivable	Notes Receivable	Interest Receivable
Balance at December 29, 2019	\$ 7,341	\$ 3,572	\$ 910
Cumulative effect of adoption of ASU 2016-13	912	463	—
Balance at December 30, 2019	8,253	4,035	910
Current period (credit) provision for expected credit losses	(3,843)	(191)	144
Write-offs charged against the allowance	(788)	(843)	—
Recoveries collected	—	(844)	—
Transfers	—	1,054	(1,054)
Balance at December 27, 2020	<u>\$ 3,622</u>	<u>\$ 3,211</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

#### *Reference Rate Reform – Hedging*

In March 2020, the FASB issued ASU 2020-04, “Facilitation of the Effects of Reference Rate Reform on Financial Reporting.” The ASU provides optional expedients and exceptions for applying guidance on contract modifications and hedge accounting related to the expected market transition from LIBOR and other interbank offered rates to alternative reference rates if certain criteria are met. This guidance was effective beginning on March 12, 2020, and the Company may elect to apply the amendments prospectively through December 31, 2022.

The hedge accounting expedients may be applied, on an individual hedging relationship basis, to eligible hedge accounting relationships that existed as of the beginning of the effective date of this guidance, and to new eligible hedging relationships entered into after the effective date of this guidance; however, those expedients generally cannot be applied to hedging relationships for periods after December 31, 2022. The Company adopted certain optional hedge accounting expedients provided by ASU 2020-04 during fiscal 2020. The adoption of this guidance did not have a material impact on the Company’s consolidated financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

#### *Accounting Standards to be Adopted in Future Periods*

##### *Convertible Instruments*

In August 2020, the FASB issued ASU 2020-06, “Debt – Debt with Conversion and Other Options (Subtopic 470-20) and Derivatives and Hedging Contracts in Entity’s Own Equity (Subtopic 815-40): Accounting for Convertible Instruments and Contracts in an Entity’s Own Equity.” This ASU amends FASB’s guidance on convertible instruments and the derivatives scope exception for contracts in an entity’s own equity and improves and amends the related earnings per share (“EPS”) guidance for both Subtopics. The ASU will be effective for annual reporting periods after December 15, 2021 and interim periods therein, with early adoption permitted. The Company is currently evaluating the impact this guidance may have on its consolidated financial statements and related disclosures.

##### *Reclassifications*

Certain prior year amounts in the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

### 3. Leases

The Company has significant leases that include most domestic Company-owned restaurant and commissary locations. Other domestic leases include tractor and trailer leases used by our distribution subsidiary as well as commissary equipment. Additionally, the Company leases a significant number of restaurants within the United Kingdom; these restaurants are then subleased to the franchisees. The Company's leases have terms as follows:

	Average lease term
Domestic Company-owned restaurants	Five years, plus at least one renewal
United Kingdom franchise-owned restaurants	15 years
Domestic commissary locations	10 years, plus at least one renewal
Domestic and international tractors and trailers	Five to seven years
Domestic and international commissary and office equipment	Three to five years

The Company determines if an arrangement is or contains a lease at contract inception and recognizes a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. Leases with an initial term of 12 months or less but greater than one month are not recorded on the balance sheet for select asset classes. The lease liability is measured at the present value of future lease payments as of the lease commencement date, or the opening balance sheet date for leases existing at adoption of Topic 842 (the first day of fiscal 2019). The right-of-use asset recognized is based on the lease liability adjusted for prepaid and deferred rent and unamortized lease incentives. An operating lease right-of-use asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over the lease term and is recognized as a single lease cost against the operating lease liability. A finance lease right-of-use asset is amortized on a straight-line basis, with interest costs reported separately, over the lesser of the useful life of the leased asset or lease term. Operating lease expense is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term and is included in Operating costs or General and administrative expenses. Variable lease payments are expensed as incurred.

The Company uses its incremental borrowing rates as the discount rate for its leases, which is equal to the rate of interest the Company would have to pay on a collateralized basis to borrow an amount equal to the lease payments under similar terms. We have elected to use the portfolio approach in determining our incremental borrowing rate. The incremental borrowing rate for all existing leases as of the date of adoption of Topic 842 was based upon the remaining terms of the leases; the incremental borrowing rate for all new or amended leases is based upon the lease terms. The lease terms for all the Company's leases include the contractually obligated period of the leases, plus any additional periods covered by Company options to extend the leases that the Company is reasonably certain to exercise.

Certain leases provide that the lease payments may be increased annually based on the fixed rate terms or adjustable terms such as the Consumer Price Index. Future base rent escalations that are not contractually quantifiable as of the lease commencement date are not included in our lease liability.

The following schedule details the total right-of-use assets and lease liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019 (in thousands):

Leases	Classification	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
<b>Assets</b>			
Finance lease assets, net	Finance lease right-of-use assets, net	\$ 16,840	\$ 9,383
Operating lease assets, net	Operating lease right-of-use assets	148,110	148,229
Total lease assets		\$ 164,950	\$ 157,612
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current finance lease liabilities	Current finance lease liabilities	\$ 3,545	\$ 1,789
Current operating lease liabilities	Current operating lease liabilities	23,538	23,226
Noncurrent finance lease liabilities	Long-term finance lease liabilities	13,531	7,629
Noncurrent operating lease liabilities	Long-term operating lease liabilities	124,666	125,297
Total lease liabilities		\$ 165,280	\$ 157,941

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Lease expense for lease payments is recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Lease expense is comprised of operating and finance lease costs, short-term lease costs, and variable lease costs, which primarily include common area maintenance, real estate taxes, and insurance for the Company's real estate leases. Lease costs also include variable rent, which is primarily related to the Company's supply chain tractor and trailer leases that are based on a rate per mile. Lease expense for the years ended December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019 are as follows:

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 27, 2020		Year Ended December 29, 2019	
<b>Finance lease:</b>				
Amortization of right-of-use assets	\$	2,342	\$	815
Interest on lease liabilities		606		251
<b>Operating lease:</b>				
Operating lease cost		40,026		42,487
Short-term lease cost		3,960		2,704
Variable lease cost		6,503		9,558
Total lease costs	\$	53,437	\$	55,815
Sublease income		(10,407)		(10,879)
Total lease costs, net of sublease income	\$	43,030	\$	44,936

Future minimum lease payments under contractually-obligated leases and associated sublease income as of December 27, 2020 are as follows (in thousands):

Fiscal Year	Finance Lease Costs	Operating Lease Costs	Expected Sublease Income
2021	\$ 4,348	\$ 32,456	\$ 10,246
2022	4,344	31,973	10,073
2023	4,338	26,251	9,778
2024	3,361	21,730	9,534
2025	1,731	17,342	9,057
Thereafter	1,054	61,024	46,642
Total future minimum lease payments	19,176	190,776	95,330
Less imputed interest	(2,100)	(42,572)	—
Total present value of lease liabilities (a)	\$ 17,076	\$ 148,204	\$ 95,330

(a) Excludes expected minimum lease payments of approximately \$33.0 million associated with our new office in Atlanta, Georgia which is expected to commence in fiscal 2021.

**Lessor Operating Leases**

We sublease certain retail space to our franchisees in the United Kingdom which are primarily operating leases. At December 27, 2020, we leased and subleased 385 Papa John's restaurants to franchisees in the United Kingdom. The initial lease terms on the franchised sites in the United Kingdom are generally 15 years. The Company has the option to negotiate an extension toward the end of the lease term at the landlord's discretion. Rental income, primarily derived from properties leased and subleased to franchisees in the United Kingdom, is recognized on a straight-line basis over the respective operating lease terms, in accordance with Topic 842, similar to previous guidance.

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**Lease Guarantees**

As a result of assigning our interest in obligations under property leases as a condition of the refranchising of certain restaurants, we are contingently liable for payment of approximately 80 domestic leases. These leases have varying terms, the latest of which expires in 2036.

As of December 27, 2020, the estimated maximum amount of undiscounted payments the Company could be required to make in the event of nonpayment by the primary lessees was \$14.3 million. This contingent liability is not included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet or future minimum lease obligation. The fair value of the guarantee is not material.

There were no leases recorded between related parties.

**Supplemental Cash Flow & Other Information**

Supplemental cash flow information related to leases for the years ended December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019 are as follows:

(in thousands)	Year Ended	
	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities:		
Operating cash flows from finance leases	\$ 606	\$ 269
Financing cash flows from finance leases	2,139	781
Operating cash flows from operating leases (a)	37,113	40,152
Right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for new finance lease liabilities	9,152	10,199
Right-of-use assets obtained in exchange for new operating lease liabilities	30,266	20,903
Cash received from sublease income	10,545	10,139
Weighted-average remaining lease term (in years):		
Finance leases	4.71	4.75
Operating leases	7.00	7.00
Weighted-average discount rate:		
Finance leases	5.34%	6.38%
Operating leases	6.65%	6.94%

(a) Included within the change in Other assets and liabilities within the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows offset by non-cash operating lease right-of-use asset amortization and lease liability accretion.

#### 4. Papa John's Marketing Fund, Inc.

PJMF, which is a consolidated variable interest entity where the Company has been identified as the primary beneficiary, collects a percentage of revenues from Company-owned and franchised restaurants in the United States, for the purpose of designing and administering advertising and promotional programs for all participating domestic restaurants. Contributions and expenditures are reported on a gross basis in the Consolidated Statements of Operations within Other revenues and Other expenses. PJMF also has a wholly-owned subsidiary, Papa Card, Inc., which administers the Company's gift card programs.

Assets and liabilities of PJMF, which are restricted in their use, included in the Consolidated Balance Sheets were as follows (in thousands):

	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,394	\$ 4,569
Accounts receivable, net	23,711	11,196
Income tax receivable	192	103
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,914	1,316
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>35,211</b>	<b>17,184</b>
Deferred income taxes, net	588	410
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 35,799</b>	<b>\$ 17,594</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,429	\$ 764
Income and other taxes payable	2	-
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	32,578	14,287
Current deferred revenue	3,938	3,252
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>41,947</b>	<b>18,303</b>
Deferred revenue	2,419	2,094
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 44,366</b>	<b>\$ 20,397</b>

#### 5. Revenue Recognition

##### *Contract Balances*

Our contract liabilities primarily relate to franchise fees, unredeemed gift card liabilities, and loyalty program obligations, which we classify as Deferred revenue on the Consolidated Balance Sheets. During the years ended December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, the Company recognized \$33.2 million and \$34.0 million in revenue, respectively, related to deferred revenue.

The contract liability balances are included in the following (in thousands):

	Contract Liabilities		
	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019	Change
Franchise fees and unredeemed gift cards	\$ 19,890	\$ 20,346	\$ (456)
Customer loyalty program	13,364	12,049	1,315
<b>Total contract liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 33,254</b>	<b>\$ 32,395</b>	<b>\$ 859</b>

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Our contract assets consist primarily of equipment incentives provided to franchisees. Equipment incentives are related to the future value of commissary revenue the Company will receive over the term of the incentive agreement. As of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, the contract assets were approximately \$5.1 million and \$6.0 million, respectively. For the years ended December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively, revenue was reduced approximately \$3.2 million and \$3.5 million for the amortization of contract assets over the applicable contract terms. Contract assets are included in Prepaid expenses and other current assets and Other assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

***Transaction Price Allocated to the Remaining Performance Obligations***

The following table (in thousands) includes estimated revenue expected to be recognized in the future related to performance obligations that are unsatisfied at the end of the reporting period.

	Performance Obligations by Period						
	Less than 1 Year	1-2 Years	2-3 Years	3-4 Years	4-5 Years	Thereafter	Total
Franchise fees	\$ 2,288	\$ 2,090	\$ 1,822	\$ 1,591	\$ 1,352	\$ 2,857	\$ 12,000

Approximately \$1.5 million of area development fees related to unopened stores and international unearned royalties are included in Deferred revenue. Timing of revenue recognition is dependent upon the timing of store openings and franchisees' revenues. Gift card liabilities of approximately \$6.4 million, included in Deferred revenue, will be recognized in Company-owned restaurant revenues when gift cards are redeemed. The Company will recognize redemption fee revenue in Other revenues when cards are redeemed at franchised restaurant locations.

The Company applies the practical expedient in ASC 606-10-50-14 and does not disclose information about remaining performance obligations that have original expected durations of one year or less.

**6. Stockholders' Deficit**

*Shares Authorized and Outstanding*

The Company has authorized 5.0 million shares of preferred stock, 100.0 million shares of common stock, and 260,000 shares of Series B Preferred Stock. The Company's outstanding shares of common stock, net of repurchased common stock, were 32.5 million shares at December 27, 2020 and 31.9 million shares at December 29, 2019. There were 252,530 shares of Series B Preferred Stock outstanding at December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019.

*Share Repurchase Program*

Our Board of Directors has authorized the repurchase of up to \$75.0 million of common stock under a share repurchase program that began on November 4, 2020 and is effective through December 31, 2021. In fiscal 2020, a total of 32,000 shares with an aggregate cost of \$2.7 million and an average price of \$83.90 per share were repurchased under this program. Funding for the share repurchase program has been provided through our operating cash flows.

The Company repurchased 2.7 million shares for \$158.0 million in 2018, which were funded through a credit facility, operating cash flow, stock option exercises, and cash and cash equivalents. There were no share repurchases during fiscal 2019.

Subsequent to year-end, we acquired an additional 15,000 shares at an aggregate cost of \$1.3 million. Approximately \$71.0 million remained available under the Company's share repurchase program as of February 17, 2021.

The timing and volume of share repurchases may be executed at the discretion of management on an opportunistic basis, subject to market and business conditions, regulatory requirements and other factors, or pursuant to trading plans or other arrangements. Repurchases under the new program may be made through open market, block, and privately negotiated transactions, including Rule 10b5-1 plans, at times and in such amounts as management deems appropriate. Repurchases

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under the Company's share repurchase program may be commenced or suspended from time to time at the Company's discretion without prior notice. Funding for the share repurchase program will be provided through our credit facility, operating cash flow, stock option exercises and cash and cash equivalents.

*Dividends*

The Company recorded dividends of approximately \$43.1 million for the year ended December 27, 2020 consisting of the following:

- \$29.4 million paid to common stockholders (\$0.90 per share);
- \$4.6 million in common stock "pass-through" dividends paid to Series B Preferred Stockholders on an as-converted basis (\$0.90 per share); and
- \$9.1 million in preferred dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock (3.6% of the investment per annum).

The Company paid common stock dividends of \$28.6 million and \$29.0 million in 2019 and 2018, respectively. Additionally, the Company paid common stock "pass-through" dividends to Series B Preferred Stockholders of \$4.3 million and \$5.7 million in preferred dividends on the Series B Preferred Stock in 2019. There were no dividends to holders of Series B Preferred stock in 2018.

On January 25, 2021, our Board of Directors declared a first quarter dividend of \$0.225 per share of common stock (approximately \$7.4 million was paid to common stockholders and \$1.1 million was paid as "pass through" dividends to holders of Series B Preferred Stock on an as-converted basis). The first quarter dividend on outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock was also declared on January 25, 2021. The common stock dividend was paid on February 19, 2021 to stockholders of record as of the close of business on February 8, 2021. The first quarter preferred dividend of \$2.3 million will be paid to holders of Series B Preferred Stock on April 1, 2021.

**7. Series B Convertible Preferred Stock**

On February 3, 2019, the Company entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement (the "Securities Purchase Agreement") with certain funds affiliated with, or managed by, Starboard Value LP (together with its affiliates, "Starboard") pursuant to which Starboard made a \$200.0 million strategic investment in the Company's newly designated Series B Preferred Stock, at a purchase price of \$1,000 per share. In addition, on March 28, 2019, Starboard made an additional \$50.0 million investment in the Series B Preferred Stock pursuant to an option that was included in the Securities Purchase Agreement. The cash proceeds from the issuance of the Series B Preferred Stock to Starboard was bifurcated between the option and preferred stock at the time of issuance based on a relative fair value allocation approach. The Company also issued \$2.5 million of Series B Preferred Stock on the same terms as Starboard to certain franchisees that represented to the Company that they qualify as an "accredited investor" as defined in Rule 501 of Regulation D promulgated under the Securities Act.

The initial dividend rate on the Series B Preferred Stock is 3.6% per annum of the stated value of \$1,000 per share (the "Stated Value"), payable quarterly in arrears. On the third anniversary of the date of issuance, each holder of Series B Preferred Stock will have the right to increase the dividend on the shares of Series B Preferred Stock to 5.6%, and on the fifth anniversary of the date of issuance, each holder will have the right to increase the dividend on the shares of Series B Preferred Stock to 7.6%, subject in each case to the Company's right to redeem some or all of such shares of Series B Preferred Stock for cash. The Series B Preferred Stock also participates on an as-converted basis in any regular or special dividends paid to common stockholders. If at any time, the Company reduces the regular dividend paid to common stockholders, the Series B Preferred Stock dividend will remain the same as if the common stock dividend had not been reduced.

The Series B Preferred Stock is convertible at the option of the holders at any time into shares of common stock based on the conversion rate determined by dividing the Stated Value by \$50.06. The Series B Preferred Stock is redeemable for cash at the option of either party from and after the eight-year anniversary of issuance, subject to certain conditions. Holders of the Series B Preferred Stock also have the right, subject to certain exceptions, to require us to repurchase all or any portion of the Series B Preferred Stock upon certain change of control events.

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Holders of the Series B Preferred Stock have the right to vote with common stockholders on an as-converted basis on all matters, without regard to limitations on conversion other than the Exchange Cap, which is equal to the issuance of greater than 19.99% of the number of shares of common stock outstanding, and subject to certain limitations in the Certificate of Designation for the Series B Preferred Stock.

Upon consummation of a change of control of the Company, the holders of Series B Preferred Stock have the right to require the Company to repurchase the Series B Preferred Stock at an amount equal to the sum of (i) the greater of (A) the Stated Value of the Series B Preferred Stock being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid dividends and interest, and (B) the Change of Control As-Converted Value with respect to the Series B Preferred Shares being redeemed and (ii) the Make-Whole Amount (as each of these terms is defined in the Certificate of Designation).

Since the holders have the option to redeem their shares of Series B Preferred Stock from and after the eight-year anniversary of issuance, which may or may not be exercised, the stock is considered contingently redeemable and, accordingly, is classified as temporary equity of \$251.9 million on the Consolidated Balance Sheet as of December 27, 2020. This amount is reported net of \$7.5 million of related issuance costs. In accordance with applicable accounting guidance, the Company also recorded a one-time mark-to-market temporary equity adjustment of \$5.9 million in 2019 for the increase in fair value for both the \$50.0 million option exercised by Starboard and the shares purchased by franchisees for the period of time the option was outstanding. The mark-to-market temporary equity adjustment was recorded in General and administrative expenses for \$5.6 million (Starboard) and as a reduction to North America franchise royalties and fees of \$0.3 million (Franchisees) within the Consolidated Statement of Operations in 2019 with no associated tax benefit. Over the initial eight-year term, the \$251.9 million investment will be accreted to the related redemption value of approximately \$252.5 million as an adjustment to Retained Earnings.

The following summarizes changes to our Series B Preferred Stock (in thousands):

Balance at December 30, 2018	\$	—
Issuance of preferred stock		252,530
One-time mark-to-market adjustment		5,914
Issuance costs		(7,527)
Accretion		216
Balance at December 29, 2019	\$	251,133
Tax deduction on issuance costs		702
Accretion		66
Balance at December 27, 2020	\$	<u>251,901</u>



## 8. Earnings (Loss) per Share

We compute earnings (loss) per share using the two-class method. The two-class method requires an earnings allocation formula that determines earnings (loss) per share for common shareholders and participating security holders according to dividends declared and participating rights in undistributed earnings. The Series B Preferred Stock and time-based restricted stock awards are participating securities because holders of such shares have non-forfeitable dividend rights and participate in undistributed earnings with common stock. Under the two-class method, total dividends provided to the holders of participating securities and undistributed earnings allocated to participating securities, are subtracted from net income attributable to the Company in determining net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders. Additionally, any accretion to the redemption value for the Series B Preferred Stock is treated as a deemed dividend in the two-class EPS calculation.

Basic earnings (loss) per common share are computed by dividing net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders by the weighted-average common shares outstanding. Diluted earnings (loss) per common share are computed by dividing the net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders by the diluted weighted average common shares outstanding. Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding consist of basic weighted average common shares outstanding plus weighted average awards outstanding under our equity compensation plans, which are dilutive securities.

The calculations of basic earnings (loss) per common share and diluted earnings (loss) per common share for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018 are as follows (in thousands, except per share data):

	2020	2019	2018
<b>Basic earnings (loss) per common share</b>			
Net income attributable to the Company	\$ 57,932	\$ 4,866	\$ 2,474
Dividends paid to participating securities and accretion	(14,059)	(12,499)	—
Net income attributable to participating securities	(2,136)	—	—
Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders	\$ 41,737	\$ (7,633)	\$ 2,474
Basic weighted average common shares outstanding	32,421	31,632	32,083
Basic earnings (loss) per common share	\$ 1.29	\$ (0.24)	\$ 0.08
<b>Diluted earnings (loss) per common share</b>			
Net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders	\$ 41,737	\$ (7,633)	\$ 2,474
Weighted average common shares outstanding	32,421	31,632	32,083
Dilutive effect of outstanding equity awards (a)	296	—	216
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding (b)	32,717	31,632	32,299
Diluted earnings (loss) per common share	\$ 1.28	\$ (0.24)	\$ 0.08

(a) Shares subject to options to purchase common stock with an exercise price greater than the average market price for the year were not included in the computation of diluted earnings per common share because the effect would have been antidilutive. The weighted average number of shares subject to antidilutive options was 100 in 2020 and 1,200 in 2018, respectively (none in 2019).

(b) The Company had 252.5 shares of Series B Preferred Stock outstanding as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively. For the fully diluted calculation, the Series B Preferred stock dividends were added back to net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders. The Company then applied the if-converted method to calculate dilution on the Series B Preferred Stock, which resulted in 5.0 million additional common shares. This calculation was anti-dilutive for both periods presented and as such was excluded.

See Note 21 for additional information regarding our equity awards, including restricted stock.

## 9. Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures

The Company is required to determine the fair value of financial assets and liabilities based on the price that would be received to sell the asset or paid to transfer the liability to a market participant. Fair value is a market-based measurement, not an entity specific measurement. The fair value of certain assets and liabilities approximates carrying value because of the short-term nature of the accounts, including cash and cash equivalents and, accounts receivable, net of credit losses, and accounts payable. The carrying value of our notes receivable, net of credit losses, also approximates fair value. The fair value of the amount outstanding under our term debt and revolving credit facility approximate their carrying values due to the variable market-based interest rate (Level 2).

Certain assets and liabilities are measured at fair value on a recurring basis and are required to be classified and disclosed in one of the following categories:

- Level 1: Quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2: Observable market-based inputs or unobservable inputs that are corroborated by market data.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data.

Our financial assets and liabilities that were measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019 are as follows (in thousands):

	Carrying Value	Fair Value Measurements		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>December 27, 2020</b>				
Financial assets:				
Cash surrender value of life insurance policies (a)	\$ 37,578	\$ 37,578	\$ —	\$ —
Financial liabilities:				
Interest rate swaps (b)	13,452	—	13,452	—
<b>December 29, 2019</b>				
Financial assets:				
Cash surrender value of life insurance policies (a)	\$ 33,220	\$ 33,220	\$ —	\$ —
Financial liabilities:				
Interest rate swaps (b)	6,168	—	6,168	—

(a) Represents life insurance policies held in our non-qualified deferred compensation plan.

(b) The fair value of our interest rate swaps is based on the sum of all future net present value cash flows. The future cash flows are derived based on the terms of our interest rate swaps, as well as considering published discount factors, and projected London Interbank Offered Rates ("LIBOR").

There were no transfers among levels within the fair value hierarchy during fiscal 2020 or 2019.

## 10. Noncontrolling Interests

Papa John's has four joint venture arrangements in which there are noncontrolling interests held by third parties. These joint venture arrangements include 188 restaurants and 192 restaurants at December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019 respectively. Net income attributable to these joint ventures for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018 were as follows (in thousands):

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Papa John's International, Inc.	\$ 5,654	\$ 2,560	\$ 5,794
Noncontrolling interests	2,682	791	1,599
Total net income	<u>\$ 8,336</u>	<u>\$ 3,351</u>	<u>\$ 7,393</u>

As of December 27, 2020, the noncontrolling interest holder of two joint ventures have the option to require the Company to purchase their interest, though not currently redeemable. Since redemption of the noncontrolling interests is outside of the Company's control, the noncontrolling interests are presented in the caption "Redeemable noncontrolling interests" in the Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The following summarizes changes in our redeemable noncontrolling interests in 2020 and 2019 (in thousands):

Balance at December 30, 2018	\$ 5,464
Net loss	(519)
Contributions	840
Balance at December 29, 2019	\$ 5,785
Net income	824
Distributions	(135)
Balance at December 27, 2020	<u>\$ 6,474</u>

## 11. Divestitures

In the fourth quarter of 2019, the Company completed the franchising of 23 Company-owned restaurants in South Florida for \$7.5 million in cash proceeds. The sale resulted in a pre-tax gain of \$2.9 million shown in Refranchising gains (losses), net on the Consolidated Statement of Operations. In connection with the divestiture, we wrote off an allocation of the goodwill related to the domestic Company-owned restaurants reporting unit of \$2.4 million, which represents the pro rata fair value of the franchised restaurants in comparison to the total fair value of the Company-owned restaurants reporting unit.

In the third quarter of 2019, the Company franchised 19 Company-owned restaurants in Macon, Georgia for \$5.6 million in cash proceeds. The sale resulted in a pre-tax gain of \$1.7 million shown in Refranchising gains (losses), net on the Consolidated Statement of Operations. In connection with the divestiture, we wrote off an allocation of the goodwill related to the domestic Company-owned restaurants reporting unit of \$2.0 million, which represents the pro rata fair value of the franchised restaurants in comparison to the total fair value of the Company-owned restaurants reporting unit.

In the third quarter of 2018, the Company completed the franchising of 31 stores owned through a joint venture in the Minneapolis, Minnesota market. The Company held a 70% ownership share in the restaurants being franchised. Total consideration for the asset sale of the restaurants was \$3.75 million. In connection with the divestiture, we wrote off an allocation of the goodwill related to the domestic Company-owned restaurants reporting unit by approximately \$600,000, which represents the pro rata fair value of the franchised restaurants in comparison to the total fair value of the Company-owned restaurants' reporting unit. We recorded a pre-tax franchising gain of approximately \$930,000 associated with the sale of the restaurants.

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In the second quarter of 2018, the Company refranchised 34 Company-owned restaurants and a quality control center located in Beijing and Tianjin, China. The Company recorded an impairment of \$1.7 million in 2017 associated with the China operations. We recorded a pre-tax loss of approximately \$1.9 million associated with the sale of the restaurants and reversed \$1.3 million of accumulated other comprehensive income related to foreign currency translation as part of the disposal. The \$1.9 million pre-tax loss in 2018 and impairment recorded in 2017 are recorded in refranchising and impairment gains (losses), net on the Consolidated Statements of Operations. In addition, we also had \$2.4 million of additional tax expense associated with the China refranchise in the second quarter of 2018. This additional tax expense is primarily attributable to the required recapture of operating losses previously taken by the Company.

In the first quarter of 2018, the Company refranchised 31 restaurants owned through a joint venture in the Denver, Colorado market. The Company held a 60% ownership share in the restaurants being refranchised. The noncontrolling interest portion of the joint venture arrangement was previously recorded at redemption value within the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Total consideration for the asset sale of the restaurants was \$4.8 million, consisting of cash proceeds of \$3.7 million, including cash paid for various working capital items, and notes financed by Papa John's for \$1.1 million.

In connection with the divestiture, we wrote off an allocation of the goodwill related to the domestic Company-owned restaurants reporting unit of \$700,000, which represents the pro rata fair value of the refranchised restaurants in comparison to the total fair value of the Company-owned restaurants' reporting unit. We recorded a pre-tax refranchising gain of approximately \$690,000.

## 12. Goodwill

The following summarizes changes in the Company's goodwill, by reportable segment (in thousands):

	<b>Domestic Company- owned</b>			
	<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>International (a)</b>	<b>All Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance as of December 30, 2018	\$ 68,689	\$ 15,391	\$ 436	\$ 84,516
Divestitures (b)	(4,435)	—	—	(4,435)
Foreign currency adjustments	—	259	—	259
Balance as of December 29, 2019	64,254	15,650	436	80,340
Foreign currency adjustments	—	451	—	451
Balance as of December 27, 2020	\$ 64,254	\$ 16,101	\$ 436	\$ 80,791

(a) The international goodwill balances for all years presented are net of accumulated impairment of \$2.3 million associated with our PJUK reporting unit.

(b) Includes 46 restaurants located primarily in two domestic markets.

### 13. Debt

Long-term debt, net consists of the following (in thousands):

	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Outstanding debt	\$ 350,000	\$ 370,000
Unamortized debt issuance costs	(1,708)	(2,710)
Current portion of long-term debt	(20,000)	(20,000)
Total long-term debt, net	<u>\$ 328,292</u>	<u>\$ 347,290</u>

The Company has a secured revolving credit facility with available borrowings of \$400.0 million (the “Revolving Facility”), of which \$10.0 million was outstanding as of December 27, 2020, and a secured term loan facility with an outstanding balance of \$340.0 million (the “Term Loan Facility”) and together with the Revolving Facility, the “PJI Facilities”. The PJI Facilities mature on August 30, 2022. The loans under the PJI Facilities accrue interest at a per annum rate equal to, at the Company’s election, either LIBOR plus a margin ranging from 125 to 250 basis points or a base rate (generally determined by a prime rate, federal funds rate or LIBOR plus 1.00%) plus a margin ranging from 25 to 150 basis points. In each case, the actual margin is determined according to a ratio of the Company’s total indebtedness to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (“EBITDA”) for the then most recently ended four-quarter period (the “Leverage Ratio”). The Credit Agreement governing the PJI Facilities (the “PJI Credit Agreement”) places certain customary restrictions upon the Company based on its financial covenants. These include limiting the repurchase of common stock and not increasing the cash dividend above the lesser of \$0.225 per share per quarter or \$35.0 million per fiscal year if the Company’s leverage ratio is above 3.75 to 1.0. Quarterly amortization payments are required to be made on the Term Loan Facility in the amount of \$5.0 million. Loans outstanding under the PJI Facilities may be prepaid at any time without premium or penalty, subject to customary breakage costs in the case of borrowings for which a LIBOR rate election is in effect. Up to \$35.0 million of the Revolving Facility may be advanced in certain agreed foreign currencies, including Euros, Pounds Sterling, Canadian Dollars, Japanese Yen, and Mexican Pesos.

The PJI Credit Agreement contains customary affirmative and negative covenants, including financial covenants requiring the maintenance of the Leverage Ratio and a specified fixed charge coverage ratio. The PJI Credit Agreement allows for a permitted Leverage Ratio of 4.75 to 1.0, decreasing over time to 4.00 to 1.0 by 2022; and a fixed charge coverage ratio of 2.25 to 1.0, which increases to 2.50 to 1.0 in 2021 and thereafter. We were in compliance with these financial covenants at December 27, 2020.

Under the PJI Credit Agreement, we have the option to increase the Revolving Facility or the Term Loan Facility in an aggregate amount of up to \$300.0 million, subject to the Leverage Ratio of the Company not exceeding 4.00 to 1.00. The Company and certain direct and indirect domestic subsidiaries are required to grant a security interest in substantially all of the capital stock and equity interests of their respective domestic and first tier material foreign subsidiaries to secure the obligations owed under the PJI Facilities.

Our outstanding debt of \$350.0 million at December 27, 2020 under the PJI Facilities was composed of \$340.0 million outstanding under the Term Loan Facility and \$10.0 million outstanding under the Revolving Facility. Including outstanding letters of credit, the Company’s remaining availability under the PJI Facilities at December 27, 2020 was approximately \$344.2 million.

As of December 27, 2020, the Company had approximately \$1.7 million in unamortized debt issuance costs, which are being amortized into interest expense over the term of the PJI Facilities.

We attempt to minimize interest rate risk exposure by fixing our rate through the utilization of interest rate swaps, which are derivative financial instruments. Our swaps are entered into with financial institutions that participate in the PJI Credit Agreement. By using a derivative instrument to hedge exposures to changes in interest rates, we expose ourselves to credit risk due to the possible failure of the counterparty to perform under the terms of the derivative contract.

We use interest rate swaps to hedge against the effects of potential interest rate increases on borrowings under our PJI Facilities.

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As of December 27, 2020, we have the following interest rate swap agreements with a total notional value of \$350.0 million:

Effective Dates	Floating Rate Debt	Fixed Rates
April 30, 2018 through April 30, 2023	\$ 55 million	2.33 %
April 30, 2018 through April 30, 2023	\$ 35 million	2.36 %
April 30, 2018 through April 30, 2023	\$ 35 million	2.34 %
January 30, 2018 through August 30, 2022	\$ 100 million	1.99 %
January 30, 2018 through August 30, 2022	\$ 75 million	1.99 %
January 30, 2018 through August 30, 2022	\$ 50 million	2.00 %

The gain or loss on the swaps is recognized in Accumulated other comprehensive loss and reclassified into earnings as adjustments to interest expense in the same period or periods during which the swaps affect earnings. Gains or losses on the swaps representing hedge components excluded from the assessment of effectiveness are recognized in current earnings.

The following table provides information on the location and amounts of our swaps in the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements (in thousands):

Balance Sheet Location	Interest Rate Swap Derivatives	
	Fair Value December 27, 2020	Fair Value December 29, 2019
Other current and long-term liabilities	\$ 13,452	\$ 6,168

The effect of derivative instruments on the accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements is as follows (in thousands):

Derivatives - Cash Flow Hedging Relationships	Amount of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in AOCL on Derivative	Location of Gain or (Loss) Reclassified from AOCL into Income	Amount of Gain or (Loss) Reclassified from AOCL into Income	Total Interest Expense on Consolidated Statements of Operations
Interest rate swaps:				
2020	\$ (5,788)	Interest expense	\$ (5,068)	\$ (17,022)
2019	\$ (8,303)	Interest expense	\$ 660	\$ (20,593)
2018	\$ 3,222	Interest expense	\$ (22)	\$ (25,673)

The weighted average interest rates on our PJI Facilities, including the impact of the interest rate swap agreements, were 3.8%, 4.1%, and 3.9% in fiscal 2020, 2019, and 2018, respectively. Interest paid, including payments made or received under the swaps, was \$15.8 million in 2020, \$18.1 million in 2019, and \$23.5 million in 2018. As of December 27, 2020, the portion of the aggregate \$13.5 million interest rate swap liability that would be reclassified into interest expense during the next twelve months approximates \$7.2 million.

PJMF has a \$20.0 million revolving line of credit (the "PJMF Revolving Facility") pursuant to a Revolving Loan Agreement, dated September 30, 2015 (as amended, the "PJMF Loan Agreement") with U.S. Bank National Association, as lender. The PJMF Revolving Facility is secured by substantially all assets of PJMF. The PJMF Revolving Facility matures on September 30, 2021. The borrowings under the PJMF Revolving Facility accrue interest at a variable rate of the one-month LIBOR plus 1.75%. The applicable interest rates on the PJMF Revolving Facility were 2.7%, 4.1%, and 3.4% in fiscal 2020, 2019, and 2018, respectively. There was no balance outstanding under the PJMF Revolving Facility as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019. The PJMF operating results and the related debt outstanding do not impact the financial covenants under the PJI Credit Agreement.

#### 14. Property and Equipment, Net

Property and equipment, net consists of the following (in thousands):

	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Land	\$ 33,381	\$ 33,349
Buildings and improvements	91,335	91,514
Leasehold improvements	123,167	121,127
Equipment and other	436,678	423,556
Construction in progress	7,954	6,860
Total property and equipment	692,515	676,406
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(491,620)	(464,665)
Property and equipment, net	<u>\$ 200,895</u>	<u>\$ 211,741</u>

#### 15. Accrued Expenses and Other Current Liabilities

Accrued expenses and other current liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Marketing	\$ 47,885	\$ 15,930
Salaries, benefits and bonuses	46,352	24,627
Insurance reserves, current	32,947	30,025
Purchases	16,550	10,768
Interest rate swaps, current portion	6,970	2,061
Strategic corporate reorganization costs	4,861	—
Deposits	3,782	2,026
Consulting and professional fees	3,148	10,667
Rent	3,080	4,274
Other	8,988	8,139
Total	<u>\$ 174,563</u>	<u>\$ 108,517</u>

#### 16. Other Long-term Liabilities

Other long-term liabilities consist of the following (in thousands):

	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Insurance reserves	\$ 49,002	\$ 45,151
Deferred compensation plan	35,793	33,220
Employer payroll taxes (1)	18,473	—
Other	8,096	6,556
Total	<u>\$ 111,364</u>	<u>\$ 84,927</u>

(1) Represents deferred employer payroll taxes under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, of which approximately half of the deferral is due on December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

## 17. Strategic Corporate Reorganization for Long-term Growth

On September 17, 2020, we announced plans to open an office in Atlanta, Georgia located in Three Ballpark Center at The Battery Atlanta. The 60,000 square foot modern space will be designed to drive continued menu innovation and optimized integration across marketing, communications, customer experience, operations, human resources, diversity, equity and inclusion, communications, financial planning and analysis, investor relations and development functions. Our information technology, finance, supply chain, and legal teams will continue to operate in our Louisville, Kentucky office, which remains critical to our success. We also maintain an office outside of London, UK, where our international operations are managed.

The opening of the office in Atlanta and related organizational changes are projected to be completed by the summer of 2021. All affected employees were either offered an opportunity to continue with the organization or were offered a severance package. As a result, we expect to incur certain one-time corporate reorganization costs of approximately \$15.0 to \$20.0 million related to employee severance and transition, recruitment and relocation, and third party and other costs through 2021.

We record severance as a one-time termination benefit and recognize the expense ratably over the employees' required future service period. All other costs, including employee transition costs, recruitment and relocation costs, and third-party costs, are recognized in the period incurred. All strategic corporate reorganization costs have been recorded in General and administrative expenses on the Consolidated Statement of Operations.

Strategic corporate reorganization costs recorded for the year ended December 27, 2020 consist of the following:

	<b>Year Ended Dec. 27, 2020</b>
Employee severance and other employee transition costs	\$ 4,775
Recruiting and professional fees	1,598
Other costs	552
Total strategic corporate reorganization costs	6,925
Stock-based compensation forfeitures on unvested awards	(940)
Total strategic corporate reorganization costs, net of stock forfeitures	\$ 5,985

As of December 27, 2020, the estimate of unpaid strategic corporate reorganization costs are included in Accrued expenses and other current liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The following table summarizes the activity for the year ended December 27, 2020:

	<b>Balance at Dec. 29 2019</b>	<b>Charges</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Balance at Dec. 27 2020</b>
Employee severance and other employee transition costs	\$ —	\$ 4,775	\$ (160)	\$ 4,615
Recruiting and professional fees	—	1,598	(1,453)	145
Other costs	—	552	(451)	101
Total strategic corporate reorganization liability	\$ —	\$ 6,925	\$ (2,064)	\$ 4,861

We expect to recognize additional costs associated with the corporate reorganization in 2021 of approximately \$9.0 to \$14.0 million, including expenditures related to (i) employee severance and other employee transition costs of approximately \$2.0 million to \$3.0 million, (ii) relocation and recruiting costs of \$6.0 million to \$9.0 million, and (iii) third-party and other costs of \$1.0 million to \$2.0 million.



**18. Income Taxes**

The following table presents the domestic and foreign components of income (loss) before income taxes for 2020, 2019 and 2018 (in thousands):

	2020	2019	2018
Domestic income (loss)	\$ 48,616	\$ (16,065)	\$ (9,665)
Foreign income	26,746	21,111	16,362
Total income	<u>\$ 75,362</u>	<u>\$ 5,046</u>	<u>\$ 6,697</u>

Included within the foreign income before income taxes above is \$14.7 million, \$15.6 million, and \$12.1 million of foreign sourced income subject to foreign withholding taxes in 2020, 2019, and 2018, respectively.

A summary of the expense (benefit) for income tax follows (in thousands):

	2020	2019	2018
<b>Current:</b>			
Federal	\$ 16,400	\$ (2,734)	\$ (5,262)
Foreign	6,047	5,077	4,736
State and local	1,569	810	1,530
<b>Deferred:</b>			
Federal	(7,375)	(1,989)	2,256
Foreign	357	(662)	(153)
State and local	(2,250)	(1,113)	(483)
Total income tax expense (benefit)	<u>\$ 14,748</u>	<u>\$ (611)</u>	<u>\$ 2,624</u>

Significant deferred tax assets (liabilities) follow (in thousands):

	December 27, 2020	December 29, 2019
Accrued liabilities	\$ 17,740	\$ 16,686
Accrued bonuses	6,155	2,308
Other liabilities and asset reserves	18,763	16,244
Equity awards	6,760	7,196
Lease liabilities	32,374	30,756
Other	2,563	2,418
Net operating losses	8,139	8,205
Foreign tax credit carryforwards	14,405	10,049
Total deferred tax assets	<u>106,899</u>	<u>93,862</u>
Valuation allowances	(22,972)	(17,303)
Total deferred tax assets, net of valuation allowances	83,927	76,559
Deferred expenses	(9,623)	(9,521)
Accelerated depreciation	(21,337)	(27,299)
Goodwill	(9,801)	(9,510)
Right-of-use assets	(32,065)	(30,257)
Other	(1,249)	(782)
Total deferred tax liabilities	<u>(74,075)</u>	<u>(77,369)</u>
Net deferred tax assets (liabilities)	<u>\$ 9,852</u>	<u>\$ (810)</u>

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The Company had approximately \$8.0 million and \$6.6 million of state deferred tax assets primarily related to state net operating loss carryforwards as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively. Our ability to utilize these state deferred tax assets is dependent on our ability to generate earnings in future years in the respective state jurisdictions. The Company provided a full valuation allowance of \$8.0 million and \$6.6 million for these state deferred tax assets as we believe realization based on the more-likely-than-not criteria has not been met as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively.

The Company had approximately \$6.3 million and \$6.2 million of foreign net operating loss and capital loss carryovers as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively. The Company had approximately \$0.6 million and \$0.5 million of valuation allowances primarily related to the foreign capital losses as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively. A substantial majority of our foreign net operating losses do not have an expiration date.

In addition, the Company had approximately \$14.4 million and \$10.0 million in foreign tax credit carryforwards as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively, that expire ten years from inception in years 2025 through 2029. Our ability to utilize these foreign tax credit carryforwards is dependent on our ability to generate foreign earnings in future years sufficient to claim foreign tax credits in excess of foreign taxes paid in those years. The Company provided a full valuation allowance of \$14.4 million and \$10.0 million for these foreign tax credit carryforwards as we believe realization based on the more-likely-than-not criteria has not been met as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively.

The reconciliation of income tax computed at the U.S. federal statutory rate to income tax expense (benefit) for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018 is as follows in both dollars and as a percentage of income before income taxes (\$ in thousands):

	2020		2019		2018	
	Income Tax Expense	Income Tax Rate	Income Tax (Benefit)	Income Tax Rate	Income Tax Expense	Income Tax Rate
Tax at U.S. federal statutory rate	\$ 15,826	21.0 %	\$ 1,060	21.0 %	\$ 1,406	21.0 %
State and local income taxes	1,149	1.5 %	79	1.6 %	150	2.2 %
Foreign income taxes	6,463	8.6 %	5,058	100.2 %	4,879	72.9 %
Income of consolidated partnerships attributable to noncontrolling interests	(603)	(0.8)%	(177)	(3.5)%	(371)	(5.6)%
Non-qualified deferred compensation plan (income) loss	(898)	(1.2)%	(1,260)	(25.0)%	483	7.2 %
Excess tax (benefits) expense on equity awards	(2,029)	(2.7)%	(212)	(4.2)%	447	6.7 %
Preferred stock option mark-to-market adjustment	—	— %	1,338	26.5 %	—	— %
Tax credits	(6,002)	(8.0)%	(6,128)	(121.4)%	(6,945)	(103.7)%
Disposition of China	—	— %	—	— %	4,118	61.5 %
Other	842	1.1 %	(369)	(7.3)%	(1,543)	(23.0)%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,748</b>	<b>19.6 %</b>	<b>\$ (611)</b>	<b>(12.1)%</b>	<b>\$ 2,624</b>	<b>39.2 %</b>

Cash for income taxes paid (received) were \$19.3 million in 2020, (\$6.2) million in 2019 and \$14.0 million in 2018.

The Company files income tax returns in the U.S. federal jurisdiction and various state and foreign jurisdictions. The Company, with few exceptions, is no longer subject to U.S. federal, state and local, or non-U.S. income tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2016. The Company is currently undergoing examinations by various tax authorities. The Company anticipates that the finalization of these current examinations and other issues could result in a decrease in the liability for unrecognized tax benefits (and a decrease of income tax expense) of approximately \$140,000 during the next 12 months.

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The Company had \$1.0 million of unrecognized tax benefits at December 27, 2020 which, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate. A reconciliation of the beginning and ending liability for unrecognized tax benefits excluding interest and penalties is as follows, which is recorded as an other long-term liability (in thousands):

Balance at December 30, 2018	\$ 2,023
Additions for tax positions of prior years	179
Reductions for tax positions of prior years	(623)
Reductions for lapse of statute of limitations	—
Balance at December 29, 2019	1,579
Additions for tax positions of prior years	60
Reductions for tax positions of prior years	(426)
Reductions for lapse of statute of limitations	(183)
Balance at December 27, 2020	<u>\$ 1,030</u>

The Company recognizes accrued interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits as part of income tax expense. The Company's 2020 and 2019 income tax expense (benefit) includes interest benefit of (\$18,000) and (\$11,000), respectively. The Company has accrued approximately \$136,000 and \$154,000 for the payment of interest and penalties as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively.

#### 19. Related Party Transactions

On March 21, 2019, Mr. Shaquille O'Neal was appointed to our Board of Directors. On June 11, 2019, the Company entered into an Endorsement Agreement (the "Endorsement Agreement"), effective March 15, 2019, with ABG-Shaq, LLC ("ABG-Shaq"), an entity affiliated with Mr. O'Neal, for the personal services of Mr. O'Neal. Pursuant to the Endorsement Agreement, the Company received the right and license to use Mr. O'Neal's name, nickname, initials, autograph, voice, video or film portrayals, photograph, likeness and certain other intellectual property rights (individually and collectively, the "Personality Rights"), in each case, solely as approved by ABG-Shaq, in connection with the advertising, promotion and sale of Papa John's-branded products. Mr. O'Neal also agreed to provide brand ambassador services related to appearances, social media and public relations matters, and to collaborate with us to develop one or more co-branded products using the Personality Rights.

As consideration for the rights and services granted under the Endorsement Agreement, the Company agreed to pay to ABG-Shaq aggregate cash payments of \$4.125 million over the three years of the Endorsement Agreement. The Company will also pay expenses related to the marketing and personal services provided by Mr. O'Neal. In addition, the Company agreed to grant 87,136 restricted stock units to Mr. O'Neal (as agent of ABG) under our 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan. The initial term of the Endorsement Agreement ends on March 15, 2022, with an option for a one-year extension upon the parties' mutual agreement. The Endorsement Agreement also includes customary exclusivity, termination and indemnification clauses.

On May 27, 2019, Mr. O'Neal and the Company entered into a joint venture for the operation of nine Atlanta-area Papa John's restaurants that were previously Company-owned restaurants. The Company owns approximately 70% of the joint venture and Mr. O'Neal owns approximately 30% of the joint venture, which is consolidated into the Company's financial statements. Mr. O'Neal contributed approximately \$840,000 representing his pro rata capital contribution.

On July 27, 2020, the Company and PJMF entered into Amendment No. 1 (the "Amendment") to the Endorsement Agreement with ABG-Shaq. Pursuant to the Amendment, the Company and PJMF developed a co-branded extra-large pizza product using the Personality Rights. ABG-Shaq did not receive any additional royalty fees from the Company beyond the cash payment already contemplated under his Endorsement Agreement under the Amendment. In addition, the Company donated one U.S. dollar for each unit of the pizza sold in the United States and one Canadian dollar for each unit sold in Canada to The Papa John's Foundation for Building Community.

## 20. Litigation, Commitments and Contingencies

### Litigation

The Company is involved in a number of lawsuits, claims, investigations and proceedings, including those specifically identified below, consisting of intellectual property, employment, consumer, commercial and other matters arising in the ordinary course of business. In accordance with ASC 450, “Contingencies” the Company has made accruals with respect to these matters where appropriate, which are reflected in the Company’s consolidated financial statements. We review these provisions at least quarterly and adjust them to reflect the impact of negotiations, settlements, rulings, advice of legal counsel and other information and events pertaining to a particular case.

*Durling et al v. Papa John’s International, Inc.*, is a conditionally certified collective action filed in May 2016 in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleging that corporate restaurant delivery drivers were not properly reimbursed for vehicle mileage and expenses in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act. In July 2018, the District Court granted a motion to certify a conditional corporate collective class and the opt-in notice process has been completed. As of the close of the opt-in period on October 29, 2018, 9,571 drivers opted into the collective class. The Company continues to deny any liability or wrongdoing in this matter and is vigorously defending this action. The Company has not recorded any liability related to this lawsuit as of December 27, 2020 as it does not believe a loss is probable or reasonably estimable.

*Danker v. Papa John’s International, Inc. et al.* On August 30, 2018, a class action lawsuit was filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York on behalf of a class of investors who purchased or acquired stock in Papa John’s through a period up to and including July 19, 2018. The complaint alleged violations of Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The District Court appointed the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System to lead the case. An amended complaint was filed on February 13, 2019, which the Company moved to dismiss. On March 16, 2020, the Court granted the Company’s motion to dismiss, on the ground that the complaint failed to state any viable cause of action. The Plaintiffs subsequently filed a second amended complaint on April 30, 2020, which the Company moved to dismiss. The Company believes that it has valid and meritorious defenses to the second amended complaint and intends to vigorously defend against the case. The Company has not recorded any liability related to this lawsuit as of December 27, 2020 as it does not believe a loss is probable or reasonably estimable. Subsequent to December 27, 2020, on February 3, 2021, the Company’s motion to dismiss the case was granted with prejudice.

## 21. Equity Compensation

We award stock options, time-based restricted stock and performance-based restricted stock units from time to time under the Papa John’s International, Inc. 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan. There are approximately 4.7 million shares of common stock authorized for issuance and remaining available under the 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan as of December 27, 2020, which includes 5.9 million shares transferred from the Papa John’s International 2011 Omnibus Incentive Plan. Option awards are granted with an exercise price equal to the market price of the Company’s stock at the date of grant. Options outstanding as of December 27, 2020 generally expire ten years from the date of grant and generally vest over a three-year period.

We recorded stock-based employee compensation expense of \$16.3 million in 2020, \$15.3 million in 2019 and \$9.9 million in 2018. At December 27, 2020, there was \$16.0 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested awards, of which the Company expects to recognize \$10.1 million in 2021, \$4.7 million in 2022 and \$1.2 million in 2023.

### *Stock Options*

Options exercised, which were issued from authorized shares, included 541,000 shares in 2020, 448,000 shares in 2019 and 75,000 shares in 2018. The total intrinsic value of the options exercised during 2020, 2019 and 2018 was \$13.8 million, \$10.6 million and \$1.5 million, respectively.

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Information pertaining to option activity during 2020 is as follows (number of options and aggregate intrinsic value in thousands):

	Number of Options	Weighted Average Exercise Price	Weighted Average Remaining Contractual Term (In Years)	Aggregate Intrinsic Value
Outstanding at December 29, 2019	1,205	\$ 55.67		
Exercised	(541)	56.73		
Cancelled	(100)	54.70		
Outstanding at December 27, 2020	564	\$ 54.82	6.58	\$ 18,453
Exercisable at December 27, 2020	337	\$ 59.31	5.68	\$ 9,512

The following is a summary of the significant assumptions used in estimating the fair value of options granted in 2019 and 2018 (none in 2020):

	2019	2018
Assumptions (weighted average):		
Risk-free interest rate	2.5 %	2.7 %
Expected dividend yield	2.1 %	1.5 %
Expected volatility	31.2 %	27.6 %
Expected term (in years)	5.7	5.6

The risk-free interest rate for the periods within the contractual life of an option is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant. The expected dividend yield was estimated as the annual dividend divided by the market price of the Company's shares on the date of grant. Expected volatility was estimated using the Company's historical share price volatility for a period similar to the expected life of the option.

Options granted generally vest in equal installments over three years and expire ten years after grant. The expected term for these options represents the period of time that options granted are expected to be outstanding and was calculated using historical experience.

The weighted average grant-date fair values of options granted during 2019 and 2018 was \$11.69 and \$15.27, respectively. The Company granted options to purchase 353,000 and 456,000 shares in 2019 and 2018, respectively. There were no options granted in 2020.

*Restricted Stock*

We granted shares of restricted stock that are time-based and generally vest in equal installments over three years (207,000 in 2020, 212,000 in 2019 and 260,000 in 2018). Upon vesting, the shares are issued from treasury stock. These restricted shares are intended to focus participants on our long-range objectives, while at the same time serving as a retention mechanism. We consider time-based restricted stock awards to be participating securities because holders of such shares have non-forfeitable dividend rights. We declared dividends totaling \$366,000 (\$0.90 per share) in 2020, \$310,000 (\$0.90 per share) in 2019 and \$185,000 (\$0.90 per share) in 2018 to holders of time-based restricted stock.

We granted 15,000 and 113,000 restricted stock units that are time-based and vest over a period of one to three years in 2020 and 2019, respectively. Upon vesting, the units are issued from treasury stock. Total dividends declared for these awards were insignificant to the results of our operations.

Additionally, we granted stock settled performance-based restricted stock units to executive management (92,000 units in 2020, 89,000 units in 2019, and 70,000 units in 2018).

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The 2020 and 2019 performance-based restricted stock units require the achievement of certain performance and market factors, which consist of the Company's Total Shareholder Return ("TSR") relative to a predetermined peer group. The grant-date fair value of the performance-based restricted stock units was determined through the use of a Monte Carlo simulation model.

The following is a summary of the significant assumptions used in estimating the fair value of the performance-based restricted stock units granted in 2020 and 2019:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>Assumptions:</b>		
Risk-free interest rate	0.9 %	2.5 %
Expected volatility	36.3 %	33.9 %

The risk-free interest rate for the periods within the contractual life of the performance-based restricted stock unit is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant. Expected volatility was estimated using the Company's historical share price volatility for a period similar to the expected life of the performance-based restricted stock unit.

The performance-based restricted stock units granted in 2020 vest over three years (cliff vest), expire ten years after grant, and are expensed over the performance period. The weighted average grant-date fair value of performance-based restricted stock units granted during 2020 and 2019 was \$59.52 and \$44.95, respectively.

In 2018, the Company granted performance-based restricted stock awards under a three-year cliff vest, and the vesting of the awards is dependent upon the Company's achievement of a compounded annual growth rate of earnings per share and the achievement of certain sales and unit growth metrics. Upon vesting, the shares are issued from authorized shares.

The fair value of time-based restricted stock and performance-based restricted stock units is based on the market price of the Company's shares on the grant date. Information pertaining to these awards during 2020 is as follows (shares in thousands):

	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value</u>
Total as of December 29, 2019	616	\$ 50.90
Granted	314	61.31
Forfeited	(64)	52.44
Vested	(199)	54.63
Total as of December 27, 2020	<u>667</u>	<u>\$ 54.33</u>

## 22. Employee Benefit Plans

We have established the Papa John's International, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the "401(k) Plan"), as a defined contribution benefit plan, in accordance with Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. The 401(k) Plan is open to employees who meet certain eligibility requirements and allows participating employees to defer receipt of a portion of their compensation and contribute such amount to one or more investment funds. At our discretion, we may make matching contribution payments, which are subject to vesting based on an employee's length of service with us.

In addition, we maintain a non-qualified deferred compensation plan available to certain employees and directors. Under this plan, the participants may defer a certain amount of their compensation, which is credited to the participants' accounts. The participant-directed investments associated with this plan are included in Other assets (\$37.6 million and \$33.2 million at December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively) and the associated liabilities (\$35.8 million and \$33.2 million at December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019, respectively) are included in Other long-term liabilities in the accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets.

At our discretion, we contributed a matching payment of 2.1% in 2020, 2.1% in 2019 and 1.5% in 2018, up to a maximum of 6% of a participating employee's earnings deferred into both the 401(k) Plan and the non-qualified deferred compensation plan. Such costs were \$1.8 million in 2020, \$1.5 million in 2019 and \$1.1 million in 2018.

### **23. Segment Information**

We have four reportable segments: domestic Company-owned restaurants, North America commissaries, North America franchising and international operations. The domestic Company-owned restaurant segment consists of the operations of all domestic ("domestic" is defined as contiguous United States) Company-owned restaurants and derives its revenues principally from retail sales of pizza, Papadias, which are flatbread-style sandwiches, and side items, including breadsticks, cheesesticks, chicken poppers and wings, dessert items and canned or bottled beverages. The North America commissary segment consists of the operations of our regional dough production and product distribution centers and derives its revenues principally from the sale and distribution of food and paper products to domestic Company-owned and franchised restaurants in the United States and Canada. The North America franchising segment consists of our franchise sales and support activities and derives its revenues from sales of franchise and development rights and collection of royalties from our franchisees located in the United States and Canada. The international segment principally consists of distribution sales to franchised Papa John's restaurants located in the United Kingdom and our franchise sales and support activities, which derive revenues from sales of franchise and development rights and the collection of royalties from our international franchisees. International franchisees are defined as all franchise operations outside of the United States and Canada. All other business units that do not meet the quantitative thresholds for determining reportable segments, which are not operating segments, we refer to as "all others," which consists of operations that derive revenues from the sale, principally to Company-owned and franchised restaurants, of printing and promotional items, franchise contributions to marketing funds and information systems and related services used in restaurant operations, including our point-of-sale system, online and other technology-based ordering platforms.

Certain administrative and capital costs are allocated to segments based upon predetermined rates or actual estimated resource usage. We account for intercompany sales and transfers as if the sales or transfers were to third parties and eliminate the activity in consolidation.

Our reportable segments are business units that provide different products or services. Separate management of each segment is required because each business unit is subject to different operational issues and strategies. No single external customer accounted for 10% or more of our consolidated revenues.

During the fourth quarter of 2020, we updated our segment profit measure to operating income from income before income taxes. This change in the segment profit measure eliminated interest expense, the majority of which impacted unallocated corporate expenses. Prior period amounts have been recast to reflect this change.

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Our segment information is as follows:

(In thousands)	2020	2019	2018
<b>Revenues:</b>		(Note)	(Note)
Domestic Company-owned restaurants	\$ 700,757	\$ 652,053	\$ 692,380
North America franchising	96,732	71,828	79,293
North America commissaries	680,793	612,652	609,866
International	150,939	126,077	131,268
All others	184,013	156,638	150,064
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,813,234</b>	<b>\$ 1,619,248</b>	<b>\$ 1,662,871</b>
<b>Intersegment revenues:</b>			
North America franchising	\$ 3,229	\$ 2,782	\$ 2,965
North America commissaries	192,332	187,073	201,325
International	-	191	283
All others	83,635	88,286	72,066
<b>Total intersegment revenues</b>	<b>\$ 279,196</b>	<b>\$ 278,332</b>	<b>\$ 276,639</b>
<b>Depreciation and amortization:</b>			
Domestic Company-owned restaurants	\$ 11,905	\$ 12,883	\$ 15,411
North America commissaries	9,660	8,131	7,397
International	1,975	1,722	1,696
All others	10,254	10,738	8,513
Unallocated corporate expenses	15,911	13,807	13,386
<b>Total depreciation and amortization</b>	<b>\$ 49,705</b>	<b>\$ 47,281</b>	<b>\$ 46,403</b>
<b>Operating income:</b>			
Domestic Company-owned restaurants (1)	\$ 37,049	\$ 33,957	\$ 18,988
North America franchising	89,801	64,362	70,732
North America commissaries	33,185	30,690	27,961
International (2)	24,034	18,738	14,203
All others	7,043	(1,966)	(5,716)
Unallocated corporate expenses (3)	(100,069)	(120,280)	(93,610)
Elimination of intersegment (profits)	(790)	(966)	(1,005)
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>\$ 90,253</b>	<b>\$ 24,535</b>	<b>\$ 31,553</b>

(Note) During the fourth quarter of 2020, we updated our segment profit measure to operating income. Amounts in 2019 and 2018 have been recast to reflect this change.

- (1) Includes \$4.7 million and \$1.6 million of refranchising gains (losses) in 2019 and 2018, respectively. See Note 11 for additional information.
- (2) Includes a \$1.9 million net loss associated with refranchising in 2018. See Note 11 for additional information.
- (3) Includes Special charges of \$14.2 million and \$25.3 million for the years ended December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018, respectively.



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(In thousands)	2020	2019	2018
<b>Property and equipment, net:</b>			
Domestic Company-owned restaurants	\$ 228,077	\$ 221,420	\$ 236,526
North America commissaries	145,282	142,946	140,309
International	13,604	16,031	17,218
All others	91,724	84,167	71,880
Unallocated corporate assets	213,828	211,842	199,239
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	(491,620)	(464,665)	(438,278)
<b>Property and equipment, net</b>	<b>\$ 200,895</b>	<b>\$ 211,741</b>	<b>\$ 226,894</b>
<b>Expenditures for property and equipment:</b>			
Domestic Company-owned restaurants	\$ 12,848	\$ 8,811	\$ 13,568
North America commissaries	4,447	3,773	3,994
International	1,065	1,143	986
All others	11,700	11,541	13,438
Unallocated corporate	5,592	12,443	10,042
<b>Total expenditures for property and equipment</b>	<b>\$ 35,652</b>	<b>\$ 37,711</b>	<b>\$ 42,028</b>

**Disaggregation of Revenue**

In the following tables, revenues are disaggregated by major product line. The tables also include a reconciliation of the disaggregated revenues by the reportable segment (in thousands):

Major Products/Services Lines	Reportable Segments					
	Year Ended December 27, 2020					
	Domestic Company-owned restaurants	North America franchising	North America commissaries	International	All others	Total
Company-owned restaurant sales	\$ 700,757	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700,757
Franchise royalties and fees	-	99,961	-	39,920	-	139,881
Commissary sales	-	-	873,125	84,043	-	957,168
Other revenues	-	-	-	26,976	267,648	294,624
Eliminations	-	(3,229)	(192,332)	-	(83,635)	(279,196)
Total segment revenues	\$ 700,757	\$ 96,732	\$ 680,793	\$ 150,939	\$ 184,013	\$ 1,813,234
International other revenues (1)	-	-	-	(26,976)	26,976	-
Total revenues	\$ 700,757	\$ 96,732	\$ 680,793	\$ 123,963	\$ 210,989	\$ 1,813,234

Major Products/Services Lines	Reportable Segments					
	Year Ended December 29, 2019					
	Domestic Company-owned restaurants	North America franchising	North America commissaries	International	All others	Total
Company-owned restaurant sales	\$ 652,053	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 652,053
Franchise royalties and fees	-	74,610	-	38,745	-	113,355
Commissary sales	-	-	799,725	64,179	-	863,904
Other revenues	-	-	-	23,344	244,924	268,268
Eliminations	-	(2,782)	(187,073)	(191)	(88,286)	(278,332)
Total segment revenues	\$ 652,053	\$ 71,828	\$ 612,652	\$ 126,077	\$ 156,638	\$ 1,619,248
International other revenues (1)	-	-	-	(23,344)	23,344	-
International eliminations (1)	-	-	-	191	(191)	-
Total revenues	\$ 652,053	\$ 71,828	\$ 612,652	\$ 102,924	\$ 179,791	\$ 1,619,248

	Reportable Segments					
	Year Ended December 30, 2018					
Major Products/Services Lines	Domestic Company- owned restaurants	North America franchising	North America commissaries	International	All others	Total
Company-owned restaurant sales	\$ 692,380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,237	\$ -	\$ 698,617
Franchise royalties and fees	-	82,258	-	35,988	-	118,246
Commissary sales	-	-	811,191	68,124	-	879,315
Other revenues	-	-	-	21,202	222,130	243,332
Eliminations	-	(2,965)	(201,325)	(283)	(72,066)	(276,639)
Total segment revenues	\$ 692,380	\$ 79,293	\$ 609,866	\$ 131,268	\$ 150,064	\$ 1,662,871
International other revenues (1)	-	-	-	(21,202)	21,202	-
International eliminations (1)	-	-	-	283	(283)	-
Total revenues	\$ 692,380	\$ 79,293	\$ 609,866	\$ 110,349	\$ 170,983	\$ 1,662,871

- (1) Other revenues as reported in the Consolidated Statements of Operations include \$27.0 million, \$23.2 million and \$20.9 million of revenue for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019, and December 30, 2018 respectively, that are part of the international reporting segment. These amounts include marketing fund contributions and sublease rental income from international franchisees in the United Kingdom that provide no significant contribution to income before income taxes but must be reported on a gross basis under accounting requirements. The related expenses for these Other revenues are reported in Other expenses in the Consolidated Statements of Operations.

**24. Quarterly Data - Unaudited, in Thousands, except Per Share Data**

Our quarterly select financial data is as follows:

2020	Quarter			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Total revenues	\$ 409,859	\$ 460,623	\$ 472,941	\$ 469,811
Operating income (a)	15,472	30,534	24,549	19,698
Net income attributable to the Company (a)	8,443	20,614	15,708	13,167
Basic earnings per common share (a)	0.15	0.49	0.35	0.29
Diluted earnings per common share (a)	0.15	0.48	0.35	0.28
Dividends declared per common share	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225

2019	Quarter			
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Total revenues	\$ 398,405	\$ 399,623	\$ 403,706	\$ 417,514
Operating income (loss) (b)	5,509	14,231	4,927	(132)
Net (loss) income attributable to the Company (b)	(1,731)	8,354	385	(2,142)
Basic (loss) earnings per common share (b)	(0.12)	0.15	(0.10)	(0.18)
Diluted (loss) earnings per common share (b)	(0.12)	0.15	(0.10)	(0.18)
Dividends declared per common share	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225

- (a) The year ended December 27, 2020 was impacted by the following:
- The fourth quarter of 2020 includes costs of \$6.0 million, after tax loss of \$4.0 million and basic and diluted loss per common share of \$0.12 from strategic corporate reorganization costs.
- (b) The year ended December 29, 2019 was impacted by the following:
- The first, second, and third quarters of 2019 include costs of \$11.0 million, \$400,000 and \$2.8 million, respectively; after tax losses of \$9.8 million, \$0.4 million, and \$2.2 million, respectively; and basic and diluted loss per common share of \$0.31, \$0.01, and \$0.07, respectively, from Special charges.
  - The third and fourth quarters of 2019 include gains of \$1.7 million and \$2.9 million, respectively; after tax gains of \$1.3 million and \$2.2 million, respectively; and basic and diluted earnings per common share of \$0.04 and \$0.07, respectively, related to the Company's refranchising of Company-owned restaurants.

Quarterly earnings per share on a full-year basis may not agree to the Consolidated Statements of Operations due to rounding.

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

None.

**Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

*(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures*

As of the end of the period covered by this report, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) and Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”), of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) of the Exchange Act). Based upon this evaluation, the CEO and CFO concluded that the Company’s disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

*(b) Management’s Report on our 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) promulgated under the Exchange Act. Our internal control system is designed to provide reasonable assurance to our management and the board of directors regarding the preparation and fair presentation of published financial statements. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our CEO and CFO, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (“COSO”) of the Treadway Commission (“2013 Framework”). Based on our evaluation under the COSO 2013 Framework, our management concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 27, 2020.

Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, has audited the 2020 Consolidated Financial Statements included in this Annual Report on Form 10-K and, as part of its audit, has issued an attestation report, included herein, on the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting.

*(c) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting*

There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the quarter ended December 27, 2020 that have materially affected, or are likely to materially affect, the Company’s internal control over financial reporting.

## **Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Stockholders and the Board of Directors of Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries

### **Opinion on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

We have audited Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting as of December 27, 2020, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (2013 Framework) (the COSO criteria). In our opinion, Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Company) maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 27, 2020, based on the COSO criteria.

We also have audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the 2020 consolidated financial statements of the Company, and our report dated February 25, 2021 expressed an unqualified opinion thereon.

### **Basis for Opinion**

The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting included in the accompanying "Management's Report on our Internal Control Over Financial Reporting." Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects.

Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### **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.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Louisville, Kentucky

February 25, 2021

**Item 9B. Other Information**

None.

**PART III**

**Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance**

Information regarding executive officers is included above under the caption “Information about our Executive Officers” at the end of Part I of this Report. Other information regarding directors, executive officers and corporate governance appearing under the captions “Corporate Governance,” “Item 1, Election of Directors,” “Delinquent Section 16(a) Reports” and “Executive Compensation / Compensation Discussion and Analysis” is incorporated by reference from the Company’s definitive proxy statement, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Report.

We have adopted a written code of ethics that applies to our directors, officers and employees. We intend to post all required disclosures concerning any amendments to or waivers from, our code of ethics on our website to the extent permitted by NASDAQ. Our code of ethics can be found on our website, which is located at [www.papajohns.com](http://www.papajohns.com).

**Item 11. Executive Compensation**

Information regarding executive compensation appearing under the captions “Executive Compensation / Compensation Discussion and Analysis,” “Compensation Committee Report” and “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions — Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation” is incorporated by reference from the Company’s definitive proxy statement, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Report.

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

The following table provides information as of December 27, 2020 regarding the number of shares of the Company’s common stock that may be issued under the Company’s equity compensation plans.

<u>Plan Category</u>	<u>(a) Number of securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options, warrants and rights</u>	<u>(b) Weighted average exercise price of outstanding options, warrants and rights</u>	<u>(c) Number of securities remaining available for future issuance under equity compensation plans, excluding securities reflected in column (a)</u>
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	563,938	\$ 54.82	4,738,169
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders *	143,024		
<b>Total</b>	<b>706,962</b>	<b>\$ 54.82</b>	<b>4,738,169</b>

\* Represents shares of common stock issuable pursuant to the non-qualified deferred compensation plan. The weighted average exercise price (column b) does not include any assumed price for issuance of shares pursuant to the non-qualified deferred compensation plan.

Information regarding security ownership of certain beneficial owners and management and related stockholder matters appearing under the caption “Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management” is incorporated by reference from the Company’s definitive proxy statement, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Report.

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

Information regarding certain relationships and related transactions, and director independence appearing under the captions “Corporate Governance” and “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” is incorporated by reference from the Company’s definitive proxy statement, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Report.

**Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

Information regarding principal accounting fees and services appearing under the caption “Ratification of the Selection of Independent Auditors” is incorporated by reference from the Company’s definitive proxy statement, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission no later than 120 days after the end of the fiscal year covered by this Report.

**PART IV**

**Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules**

(a)(1) Financial Statements:

The following Consolidated Financial Statements, notes related thereto and reports of independent auditors are included in Item 8 of this Report:

- Reports of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firms
- Consolidated Statements of Operations for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018
- Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss) for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018
- Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 27, 2020 and December 29, 2019
- Consolidated Statements of Stockholders’ Deficit for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018
- Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 27, 2020, December 29, 2019 and December 30, 2018
- Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules:

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Schedule II - Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

Classification	Balance at Beginning of Year	Charged to (recovered from) Costs and Expenses	Additions / (Deductions)	Balance at End of Year
(in thousands)				
<b>Fiscal year ended December 27, 2020</b>				
Deducted from asset accounts:				
Valuation allowance on deferred tax assets	\$ 17,303	\$ 1,313	\$ 4,356	\$ 22,972
<b>Fiscal year ended December 29, 2019</b>				
Deducted from asset accounts:				
Reserve for uncollectible accounts receivable	\$ 4,205	\$ 3,216	\$ (80)(1)	\$ 7,341
Reserve for franchisee notes receivable	3,369	(77)	280 (1)	3,572
Valuation allowance on deferred tax assets	8,183	6,301	2,819	17,303
	<u>\$ 15,757</u>	<u>\$ 9,440</u>	<u>\$ 3,019</u>	<u>\$ 28,216</u>
<b>Fiscal year ended December 30, 2018</b>				
Deducted from asset accounts:				
Reserve for uncollectible accounts receivable	\$ 2,271	\$ 7,242	\$ (5,308)(1)	\$ 4,205
Reserve for franchisee notes receivable	1,047	(393)	2,715 (1)	3,369
Valuation allowance on deferred tax assets	7,415	(1,754)	2,522	8,183
	<u>\$ 10,733</u>	<u>\$ 5,095</u>	<u>\$ (71)</u>	<u>\$ 15,757</u>

(1) Uncollectible accounts written off and reclassifications between accounts and notes receivable reserves.

All other schedules for which provision is made in the applicable accounting regulation of the Securities and Exchange Commission are not required under the related instructions or are inapplicable and, therefore, have been omitted.

(a)(3) Exhibits:

The exhibits listed in the accompanying index to Exhibits are filed as part of this Form 10-K.

**Item 16. Summary**

None.



## EXHIBIT INDEX

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Exhibit</b>
3.1	<a href="#">Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation. Exhibit 3.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 29, 2014, is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
3.2	<a href="#">Our Amended and Restated By-Laws. Exhibit 3.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 27, 2015 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
3.3	<a href="#">Certificate of Designation of Series B Convertible Preferred Stock of Papa John's International, Inc. Exhibit 3.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on February 4, 2019, is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
3.4	<a href="#">Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Papa John's International, Inc. Exhibit 3.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on July 23, 2018, is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
4.1	<a href="#">Rights Agreement, dated as of July 22, 2018, by and between Papa John's International, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent. Exhibit 4.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on July 23, 2018 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
4.2	<a href="#">Amendment No. 1 to Rights Agreement dated as of February 3, 2019, by and between Papa John's International, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent. Exhibit 4.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on February 3, 2019 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
4.3	<a href="#">Amendment No. 2 to Rights Agreement dated as of March 6, 2019 by and between Papa John's International, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. as rights agent. Exhibit 4.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on March 6, 2019, is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
4.4	<a href="#">Amendment No. 3 to Rights Agreement dated as of October 23, 2019, by and between Papa John's International, Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A. as rights agent. Exhibit 4.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on October 24, 2019 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
4.5	<a href="#">Form of Rights Certificate. Exhibit 4.2 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on July 23, 2018 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
4.6	<a href="#">Specimen Common Stock Certificate. Exhibit 4.1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
4.7	<a href="#">Description of Registrant's securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Exhibit 4.7 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 29, 2019 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.1	<a href="#">Form of Papa John's International, Inc. Director Indemnification Agreement. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2018 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.2	<a href="#">Form of Papa John's International, Inc. Officer Indemnification Agreement. Exhibit 10.2 to our report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2018 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>

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<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Exhibit</b>
10.3	<a href="#">Securities Purchase Agreement between Papa John's International, Inc. and Starboard Value and Opportunity Master Fund Ltd., Starboard Value and Opportunity Master Fund L LP, Starboard Value and Opportunity C LP, Starboard Value and Opportunity S LLC and Starboard Value LP effective February 3, 2019. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on February 4, 2019 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.4	<a href="#">Registration Rights Agreement between Papa John's International, Inc. and Starboard Value and Opportunity Master Fund Ltd., Starboard Value and Opportunity Master Fund L LP, Starboard Value and Opportunity C LP, Starboard Value and Opportunity S LLC and Starboard Value LP effective February 4, 2019. Exhibit 10.2 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on February 4, 2019 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.5	<a href="#">Governance Agreement between Papa John's International, Inc. and Starboard Value LP, Starboard Value and Opportunity Master Fund Ltd., Starboard Value and Opportunity Master Fund L LP, Starboard Value and Opportunity C LP, Starboard Value and Opportunity S LLC, Starboard Value R LP, Starboard Value GP LLC, Starboard Principal Co LP, Starboard Principal Co GP LLC, Starboard Value L LP, Starboard Value R GP, LLC, Jeffrey C. Smith and Peter A. Feld effective February 4, 2019. Exhibit 10.3 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on February 4, 2019 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.6	<a href="#">Amendment No. 1 to Governance Agreement, by and among Papa John's International and the entities and natural persons listed on the signature pages attached thereto effective March 6, 2019. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on March 6, 2019 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.7*	<a href="#">Employment Agreement between Papa John's International, Inc. and Robert Lynch effective August 26, 2019. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on August 28, 2019 is incorporate herein by reference.</a>
10.8*	<a href="#">Endorsement Agreement, executed June 11, 2019 and effective March 15, 2019, by among, on the one hand, ABG-Shaq, LLC for the personal services of Shaquille O'Neal, and, on the other hand, Papa John's Marketing Fund, Inc. and Papa John's International, Inc. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on June 17, 2019 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.9	<a href="#">Amendment No. 1 to the March 15, 2019 Endorsement Agreement for personal services of Shaquille O'Neal by and among ABG-Shaq, LLC, Papa John's Marketing Fund, Inc. and Papa John's International, Inc., effective July 27, 2020. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 27, 2020 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.10	<a href="#">Credit Agreement, dated August 30, 2017, by and among Papa John's International Inc., as borrower, the Guarantors party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and the other lending institutions that are parties thereto, as Lenders (Conformed copy through amendment no. 2). Exhibit 10.4 to our report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017 is incorporate herein by reference.</a>
10.11	<a href="#">Amendment No. 3 to Credit Agreement, dated October 9, 2018, by and among Papa John's International, Inc. as borrower, the Guarantors party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and the other lending institutions that are parties thereto, as Lenders. Exhibit 10.1 to our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2018, is incorporated herein by reference.</a>

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<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Exhibit</b>
10.12	<a href="#">Amendment No. 4 to Credit Agreement, dated February 1, 2019, by and among Papa John's International, Inc. as borrower, the Guarantors party thereto, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, and the other lending institutions that are parties thereto, as Lenders. Exhibit 10.19 to our report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2018 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.13**	<a href="#">Joinder Agreement, dated December 17, 2020, between Papa John's USA-Georgia, Inc., Papa John's Franchising, LLC and JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Administrative Agent, under that certain Credit Agreement dated as of August 30, 2017, among Papa John's International, Inc., the other Loan Parties party thereto, the lenders party thereto and the Administrative Agent.</a>
10.14*	<a href="#">Papa John's International, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan, as amended through December 5, 2012. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 30, 2012 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.15*	<a href="#">Papa John's International, Inc. 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan. Exhibit 4.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on May 8, 2018 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.16*	<a href="#">Papa John's International, Inc. 2011 Omnibus Incentive Plan. Exhibit 4.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on May 3, 2011 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.17*	<a href="#">Papa John's International, Inc. Amended and Restated Change of Control Severance Plan. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 8-K filed on November 4, 2020 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.18*	<a href="#">Papa John's International, Inc. Severance Pay Plan. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 25, 2012 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.19*	<a href="#">Amendment to Papa John's International, Inc. Severance Pay Plan. Exhibit 10.2 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on November 2, 2018 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
10.20*	<a href="#">Amendment No. 2 to Papa John's International, Inc. Severance Pay Plan. Exhibit 10.1 to our report on Form 8-K as filed on December 7, 2020 is incorporated herein by reference.</a>
21**	<a href="#">Subsidiaries of the Company.</a>
23.1**	<a href="#">Consent of Ernst &amp; Young LLP.</a>
23.2**	<a href="#">Consent of KPMG LLP.</a>
31.1**	<a href="#">Section 302 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e).</a>
31.2**	<a href="#">Section 302 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 13a-15(e).</a>
32.1**	<a href="#">Section 906 Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</a>

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<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Exhibit</b>
32.2**	<a href="#">Section 906 Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</a>
101	Financial statements from the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Papa John's International, Inc. for the year ended December 27, 2020, filed on February 25, 2021 formatted in inline XBRL: (i) the Consolidated Statements of Operations, (ii) the Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income (Loss), (iii) the Consolidated Balance Sheets, (iv) the Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' (Deficit), (v) the 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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\* Compensatory plan required to be filed as an exhibit pursuant to Item 15(c) of Form 10-K.

\*\*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.

Date: February 25, 2021

**PAPA JOHN'S INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

By: /s/ Robert M. Lynch  
Robert M. Lynch  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ Jeffrey C. Smith</u> Jeffrey C. Smith	Chairman	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Robert M. Lynch</u> Robert M. Lynch	President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer and Director)	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Ann B. Gugino</u> Ann B. Gugino	Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Christopher L. Coleman</u> Christopher L. Coleman	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Michael R. Dubin</u> Michael R. Dubin	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Olivia F. Kirtley</u> Olivia F. Kirtley	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Laurette T. Koellner</u> Laurette T. Koellner	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Jocelyn C. Mangan</u> Jocelyn C. Mangan	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Sonya E. Medina</u> Sonya E. Medina	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Shaquille R. O'Neal</u> Shaquille R. O'Neal	Director	February 25, 2021
<u>/s/ Anthony M. Sanfilippo</u> Anthony M. Sanfilippo	Director	February 25, 2021

## JOINDER AGREEMENT

THIS JOINDER AGREEMENT (this "Agreement"), dated as of December 17, 2020, is entered into between Papa John's USA-Georgia, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("PJ USA Georgia"), Papa John's Franchising, LLC, a Kentucky limited liability company ("PJ Franchising," and together with PJ USA Georgia, the "New Subsidiaries," and each a "New Subsidiary") and JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., in its capacity as administrative agent (the "Administrative Agent") under that certain Credit Agreement dated as of August 30, 2017 (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Credit Agreement"), among Papa John's International, Inc. (the "Borrower"), the other Loan Parties party thereto, the lenders party thereto and the Administrative Agent. All capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Credit Agreement.

The New Subsidiaries and the Administrative Agent, for the benefit of the Lenders, hereby agree as follows:

1. Each New Subsidiary hereby acknowledges, agrees and confirms that, by its execution of this Agreement, each New Subsidiary will be deemed to be a Loan Party under the Credit Agreement and a "Loan Guarantor" for all purposes of the Credit Agreement and shall have all of the obligations of a Loan Party and a Loan Guarantor thereunder as if it had executed the Credit Agreement. Each of the New Subsidiaries hereby ratifies, as of the date hereof, and agrees to be bound by, all of the terms, provisions and conditions contained in the Credit Agreement, including without limitation (a) all of the representations and warranties of the Loan Parties set forth in Article III of the Credit Agreement, (b) all of the covenants set forth in Articles V and VI of the Credit Agreement and (c) all of the guaranty obligations set forth in Article X of the Credit Agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing terms of this paragraph 1, each New Subsidiary, subject to the limitations set forth in Section 10.10 and 10.13 of the Credit Agreement, hereby guarantees, jointly and severally with the other Loan Guarantors, to the Administrative Agent and the Lenders, as provided in Article X of the Credit Agreement, the prompt payment and performance of the Guaranteed Obligations in full when due (whether at stated maturity, as a mandatory prepayment, by acceleration or otherwise) strictly in accordance with the terms thereof and agrees that if any of the Guaranteed Obligations are not paid or performed in full when due (whether at stated maturity, as a mandatory prepayment, by acceleration or otherwise), each New Subsidiary will, jointly and severally together with the other Loan Guarantors, promptly pay and perform the same, without any demand or notice whatsoever, and that in the case of any extension of time of payment or renewal of any of the Guaranteed Obligations, the same will be promptly paid in full when due (whether at extended maturity, as a mandatory prepayment, by acceleration or otherwise) in accordance with the terms of such extension or renewal.

2. The respective address of each New Subsidiary for purposes of Section 9.01 of the Credit Agreement is as follows:

Papa John's Franchising, LLC:

Papa John's International, Inc.  
2002 Papa John's Blvd.  
Louisville, Kentucky 40299  
Attention: Ann Gugino, CFO, and Connie Houston  
Fax No: (502) 261-4190

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Papa John's USA-Georgia, Inc.:

Papa John's International, Inc.  
2002 Papa John's Blvd.  
Louisville, Kentucky 40299  
Attention: Ann Gugino, CFO, and Connie Houston  
Fax No: (502) 261-4190

In each case, with a copy to:

Papa John's International, Inc.  
2002 Papa John's Blvd.  
Louisville, Kentucky 40299  
Attention: Caroline Oyler, Chief Legal and Risk Officer  
Fax No: (502) 261-4190

3. Each New Subsidiary hereby waives acceptance by the Administrative Agent and the Lenders of the guaranty by the New Subsidiaries upon the execution of this Agreement by the New Subsidiaries.

4. This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when so executed and delivered shall be an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

5. THIS AGREEMENT AND THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES HEREUNDER SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED AND INTERPRETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

[Signature Page Follows]

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each New Subsidiary has caused this Agreement to be duly executed by its authorized officer, and the Administrative Agent, for the benefit of the Lenders, has caused the same to be accepted by its authorized officer, as of the day and year first above written.

PAPA JOHN'S USA-GEORGIA, INC.

By: /s/ Ann Gugino

Name: Ann Gugino

Title: Vice President

PAPA JOHN'S FRANCHISING, LLC

By: /s/ Ann Gugino

Name: Ann Gugino

Title: Vice President

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Acknowledged and accepted:

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., as Administrative Agent

By: /s/ Blakely Engel

Name: Blakely Engel

Title: Vice President

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**Subsidiaries of the Company:**

- Papa John's USA, Inc., a Kentucky corporation
  - PJ Food Service, Inc., a Kentucky corporation
  - Trans Papa Logistics, Inc., a Kentucky corporation
  - Preferred Marketing Solutions, Inc., a Kentucky corporation
  - Risk Services Corp., a Kentucky corporation
  - Capital Delivery, Ltd., a Kentucky corporation
  - DEPZZA, Inc., a Delaware corporation
  - Colonel's Limited, LLC, a Virginia limited liability company
  - PJ Holdings, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company
  - Star Papa, LP, a Delaware limited partnership company
  - Papa John's Pizza, Ltd., a United Kingdom corporation
  - Papa John's (GB) Holdings Ltd., a United Kingdom corporation
  - Papa John's (GB), Ltd., a United Kingdom corporation
  - Papa John's Mexico, Inc., a Delaware corporation
  - Papa John's Capital, SRL de CV, a Mexican corporation
  - Equipo Papa John's, SRL de CV, a Mexican corporation
  - Papa John's EUM, SRL de CV, a Mexican corporation
  - PJ Mexico Franchising SRL de CV, a Mexican corporation
  - Papa John's China, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company
  - PJ Chile, LLC, a Kentucky limited liability company
  - PJI Chile, SpA, a Chilean corporation
  - PJ North Georgia, LLC, a Kentucky limited liability company
  - PJFS Canada, LLC, a Kentucky limited liability company
  - PJ Asia, LLC, a Kentucky limited liability company
  - Papa John's (Beijing) Commercial Management Company Limited – China corporation
  - O'Neal Boyz, LLC – a Georgia limited liability company
  - PJ Russia, LLC – a Kentucky limited liability company
  - PJ Rus, LLC – a Russian limited liability company
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**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the following Registration Statements:

- (1) Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-149468) pertaining to the Papa John's International, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan filed February 29, 2008,
- (2) Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-165154, No. 333-168562, No. 333-221218) pertaining to the Papa John's International, Inc. Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan filed March 2, 2010, August 5, 2010, and October 30, 2017, respectively,
- (3) Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-168561) pertaining to the Papa John's International, Inc. 401(k) Plan filed August 5, 2010,
- (4) Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-173893) pertaining to the Papa John's International, Inc. 2011 Omnibus Incentive Plan filed May 3, 2011,
- (5) Registration Statement (Form S-8 No. 333-224770) pertaining to the Papa John's International, Inc. 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan filed May 9, 2018, and
- (6) Registration Statement (Form S-3 No. 333-233541) of Papa John's International, Inc. filed August 30, 2019;

of our reports dated February 25, 2021, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedule of Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries included in this Annual Report (Form 10-K) of Papa John's International, Inc. and Subsidiaries for the year ended December 27, 2020.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Louisville, Kentucky  
February 25, 2021

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**Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

The Board of Directors  
Papa John's International, Inc.:

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the registration statements (Nos. 333-224770, 333-173893, 333-165154, 333-168562, 333-221218, 333-149468, and 333-168561) on Form S-8 and the registration statement (No. 333-233541) on Form S-3 of Papa John's International, Inc. of our report dated March 8, 2019 with respect to the consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, stockholders' deficit, and cash flows Papa John's International, Inc. and subsidiaries for the year ended December 30, 2018, and the related notes and financial statement schedule, which report appears in the December 27, 2020 annual report on the Form 10-K of Papa John's International, Inc.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Louisville, Kentucky  
February 25, 2021

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**SECTION 302  
CERTIFICATION**

I, Robert M. Lynch, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Papa John's International, Inc.;
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: February 25, 2021

/s/ Robert M. Lynch  
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Robert M. Lynch  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

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**SECTION 302  
CERTIFICATION**

I, Ann B. Gugino, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this annual report on Form 10-K of Papa John's International, Inc.;
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: February 25, 2021

/s/ Ann B. Gugino  
Ann B. Gugino  
Chief Financial Officer

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**SECTION 906  
CERTIFICATION**

I, Robert M. Lynch, President and Chief Executive Officer of Papa John's International, Inc. (the "Company"), certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:

1. The Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the annual period ended December 27, 2020 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m); 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: February 25, 2021

/s/ Robert M. Lynch

Robert M. Lynch  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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**SECTION 906  
CERTIFICATION**

I, Ann B. Gugino, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer of Papa John's International, Inc. (the "Company"), certify, pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, that:

1. The Report on Form 10-K of the Company for the annual period ended December 27, 2020 (the "Report") fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m); 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: February 25, 2021

/s/ Ann B. Gugino  
Ann B. Gugino  
Chief Financial Officer

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