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BROWN FORMAN CORP
Form 10-Q
September 05, 2008

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

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the quarterly period ended JULY 31, 2008

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 No. 002-26821

BROWN-FORMAN CORPORATION
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its Charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

61-0143150
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

850 Dixie Highway
Louisville, Kentucky
(Address of principal executive offices)

40210
(Zip Code)

(502) 585-1100
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A
(Former name, former address and former fiscal year,
if changed since last report)

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 is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer
Non-accelerated filer Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of the latest practicable date: August 31, 2008

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Class A Common Stock (\$.15 par value, voting)	56,609,413
Class B Common Stock (\$.15 par value, nonvoting)	64,089,074

BROWN-FORMAN CORPORATION
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PART I - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements (Unaudited)
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BROWN-FORMAN CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited)
(Dollars in millions, except per share amounts)

Three Months Ended	
July 31,	
2007	2008
-----	-----

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Net sales	\$ 739.1	\$ 790.0
Excise taxes	152.0	176.2
Cost of sales	196.1	233.0
	-----	-----
Gross profit	391.0	380.8
Advertising expenses	94.0	97.0
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	143.1	144.3
Amortization expense	1.3	1.3
Other (income), net	(2.8)	(2.4)
	-----	-----
Operating income	155.4	140.6
Interest income	2.0	1.7
Interest expense	13.1	9.2
	-----	-----
Income from continuing operations before income taxes	144.3	133.1
Income taxes	48.9	44.9
	-----	-----
Income from continuing operations	95.4	88.2
Loss from discontinued operations, net of income taxes	(0.1)	--
	-----	-----
Net income	\$ 95.3	\$ 88.2
	=====	=====
Earnings per share(1):		
Basic	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.73
Diluted	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.73
Shares (in thousands) used in the calculation of earnings per share:		
Basic	123,217	120,483
Diluted	124,434	121,549
Cash dividends per common share:		
Declared	\$0.6050	\$0.6800
Paid	\$0.3025	\$0.3400

(1) Earnings per share for Continuing Operations and the total Company are the same due to the immaterial results of Discontinued Operations.

See notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

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Assets		

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 118.9	\$ 160.2
Accounts receivable, net	453.2	428.8
Inventories:		
Barreled whiskey	311.2	317.0
Finished goods	154.2	186.5
Work in process	179.2	150.1
Raw materials and supplies	39.9	55.4
	-----	-----
Total inventories	684.5	709.0
Current portion of deferred income taxes	102.3	102.3
Other current assets	97.1	94.1
	-----	-----
Total current assets	1,456.0	1,494.4
Property, plant and equipment, net	501.4	505.7
Goodwill	688.0	688.1
Other intangible assets	698.8	697.6
Prepaid pension cost	22.8	25.2
Other assets	38.0	37.9
	-----	-----
Total assets	\$3,405.0	\$3,448.9
	=====	=====
Liabilities		

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 379.7	\$ 343.0
Accrued income taxes	14.7	61.1
Dividends payable	--	41.0
Short-term borrowings	585.3	576.4
Current portion of long-term debt	4.3	4.3
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities	984.0	1,025.8
Long-term debt	417.0	416.7
Deferred income taxes	88.8	81.9
Accrued pension and other postretirement benefits	121.2	115.5
Other liabilities	68.8	58.0
	-----	-----
Total liabilities	1,679.8	1,697.9
Stockholders' Equity		

Common stock:		
Class A, voting		
(57,000,000 shares authorized; 56,925,000 and		
56,964,000 shares issued at April 30 and		
July 31, respectively)	8.5	8.5
Class B, nonvoting		
(100,000,000 shares authorized;		
69,188,000 shares issued)	10.4	10.4
Additional paid-in capital	73.8	69.7
Retained earnings	1,931.8	1,934.3
Accumulated other comprehensive income	5.0	26.8
Treasury stock		
(5,522,000 and 5,462,000 shares		
at April 30 and July 31, respectively)	(304.3)	(298.7)
	-----	-----
Total stockholders' equity	1,725.2	1,751.0
	-----	-----

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Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$3,405.0 =====	\$3,448.9 =====
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See notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

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BROWN-FORMAN CORPORATION
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited)
(Dollars in millions)

	Three Months Ended July 31,	
	2007	2008
	-----	-----
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 95.3	\$ 88.2
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operations:		
Net loss from discontinued operations	0.1	--
Non-cash agave inventory write-down	--	22.4
Depreciation and amortization	12.8	13.3
Stock-based compensation expense	2.4	2.5
Deferred income taxes	(4.8)	(10.6)
Changes in assets and liabilities, excluding the effects of businesses acquired or sold:		
Accounts receivable	9.9	24.4
Inventories	(28.9)	(46.9)
Other current assets	51.6	3.0
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(26.8)	(36.7)
Accrued income taxes	(20.0)	46.4
Noncurrent assets and liabilities	36.9	(1.3)
Net cash used for operating activities of discontinued operations	(0.1)	--
	-----	-----
Cash provided by operating activities	128.4	104.7
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired	1.5	--
Acquisition of brand name	(12.0)	--
Sale of short-term investments	85.6	--
Additions to property, plant, and equipment	(11.4)	(13.2)
Computer software expenditures	(3.3)	(1.0)
	-----	-----
Cash provided by (used for) investing activities	60.4	(14.2)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Net repayment of short-term borrowings	(58.9)	(10.3)
Net proceeds (payments) from exercise of stock options	11.3	(3.4)
Excess tax benefits from stock options	3.3	2.7
Acquisition of treasury stock	(7.0)	(0.3)
Special distribution to stockholders	(203.7)	--
Dividends paid	(37.3)	(41.1)
	-----	-----
Cash used for financing activities	(292.3)	(52.4)
Effect of exchange rate changes on cash and		

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cash equivalents	0.5	3.2
	-----	-----
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(103.0)	41.3
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period	282.8	118.9
	-----	-----
Cash and cash equivalents, end of period	\$ 179.8	\$ 160.2
	=====	=====

See notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

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BROWN-FORMAN CORPORATION NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

In these notes, "we," "us," and "our" refer to Brown-Forman Corporation.

1. Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

We prepared these unaudited condensed consolidated statements using our customary accounting practices as set out in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended April 30, 2008 (the "2008 Annual Report"), except that effective May 1, 2008, we adopted certain provisions of FASB Statements No. 157 and No. 158 (see Notes 7 and 10). We made all of the adjustments (which include only normal, recurring adjustments, unless otherwise noted) needed for a fair statement of this data.

We condensed or omitted some of the information found in financial statements prepared according to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP"). You should read these financial statements together with the 2008 Annual Report, which does conform to GAAP.

2. Inventories

We use the last-in, first-out ("LIFO") method to determine the cost of most of our inventories. If the LIFO method had not been used, inventories at current cost would have been \$150.1 million higher than reported as of April 30, 2008, and \$159.0 million higher than reported as of July 31, 2008. Changes in the LIFO valuation reserve for interim periods are based on a proportionate allocation of the estimated change for the entire fiscal year.

During the three months ended July 31, 2008, a portion of our agave fields showed signs of abnormally high levels of mortality and disease, which has significantly reduced the amount of agave we expect to yield from some fields. As a result, we recorded a provision for inventory losses of \$22.4 million, which is included in cost of sales for the three months ended July 31, 2008. This amount was based on management's estimates of the extent of the loss in yield and the effectiveness of the measures we plan to undertake to combat the crop diseases and other agricultural factors contributing to the lower yield. Although this provision is based on management's best estimate at this time, it is at least reasonably possible that actual inventory losses could be significantly different, which could have a materially adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

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3. Income Taxes

Our consolidated quarterly effective tax rate is based upon our expected annual operating income, statutory tax rates, and tax laws in the various jurisdictions in which we operate. Significant or unusual items, including adjustments to accruals for tax uncertainties, are recognized in the quarter in which the related event occurs. The effective tax rate of 33.8% for the three months ended July 31, 2008, is based on an expected effective tax rate of 33.0% on ordinary income for the full fiscal year, plus additional interest on previously provided tax contingencies and the tax effect of other events (provision for agave inventory losses) occurring through July 31, 2008. Our expected tax rate from operations includes current fiscal year additions for existing tax contingency items.

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We believe it is reasonably possible that our gross unrecognized tax benefits may decrease by approximately \$2.5 million in the next 12 months although we do expect that the statute of limitations on certain gross unrecognized state income tax benefits of \$4.4 million will expire during this period.

We file income tax returns in the U.S., including several state and local jurisdictions, as well as in various other countries throughout the world in which we conduct business. The major jurisdictions and their earliest fiscal years that are currently open for tax examinations are 1998 in the U.S., 2004 in Ireland and Italy; 2003 in the U.K.; and 2002 in Finland and Poland.

4. Discontinued Operations

Discontinued Operations consisted of Hartmann and Brooks & Bentley, wholly-owned subsidiaries that we sold in fiscal 2007. Those subsidiaries, along with Lenox, Inc., the wholly-owned subsidiary that we sold in fiscal 2006, comprised our former consumer durables business.

5. Earnings Per Share

Basic earnings per share is based upon the weighted average number of all common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted earnings per share includes the dilutive effect of stock-based compensation awards, including stock options, stock-settled stock appreciation rights ("SSARs"), and non-vested restricted stock. Stock-based awards for approximately 754,000 common shares and 395,000 common shares were excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per share for the periods ended July 31, 2007 and 2008, respectively, because the exercise price of the awards was greater than the average market price of the shares.

The following table presents information concerning basic and diluted earnings per share:

	Three Months Ended July 31,	
	2007	2008
	-----	-----
(Dollars in millions, except per share amounts)		
Basic and diluted net income	\$95.3	\$88.2
Share data (in thousands):		
Basic average common shares outstanding	123,217	120,483
Dilutive effect of non-vested restricted stock	80	108
Dilutive effect of stock options and SSARs	1,137	958

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	-----	-----
Diluted average common shares outstanding	124,434 =====	121,549 =====
Basic earnings per share	\$0.77	\$0.73
Diluted earnings per share	\$0.77	\$0.73

Earnings per share for Continuing Operations and the total Company are the same due to the immaterial results of Discontinued Operations.

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6. Dividends Payable

On July 24, 2008, our Board of Directors approved a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.34 per share on Class A and Class B Common Stock. Stockholders of record on September 8, 2008 will receive the cash dividend on October 1, 2008.

7. Pension and Other Postretirement Benefits

On April 30, 2007, we adopted FASB Statement No. 158, "Employer's Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans" (FAS 158). FAS 158 requires that, beginning in 2009, the assumptions used to measure our annual pension and other postretirement benefit expenses be determined as of the balance sheet date, and all plan assets and liabilities be reported as of that date. Accordingly, as of the beginning of our 2009 fiscal year, we changed the measurement date for our annual pension and other postretirement benefit expenses and all plan assets and liabilities from January 31 to April 30. As a result of this change in measurement date, we recorded an increase of \$5.6 million (net of tax of \$3.7 million) to stockholders' equity as of May 1, 2008, as follows:

(Dollars in millions)	Pension Benefits	Other Benefits	Total Benefits
Retained earnings	\$ (2.8)	\$ (0.8)	\$ (3.6)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	8.4	0.8	9.2
	-----	-----	-----
Total	\$ 5.6 =====	\$ -- =====	\$ 5.6 =====

The following table shows the components of the pension and other postretirement benefit expense recognized during the three months ended July 31:

(Dollars in millions)	Pension Benefits		Other Benefits	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	----	----	----	----
Service cost	\$ 3.4	\$3.4	\$0.2	\$0.3
Interest cost	6.6	7.5	0.8	0.9
Expected return on plan assets	(8.0)	(8.7)	--	--
Amortization of:				
Prior service cost	0.2	0.2	--	--
Net actuarial loss	3.0	1.6	0.1	--
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net expense	\$ 5.2 =====	\$4.0 =====	\$1.1 =====	\$1.2 =====

8. Contingencies

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We operate in a litigious environment, and we are sued in the normal course of business. Sometimes plaintiffs seek substantial damages. Significant judgment is required in predicting the outcome of these suits and claims, many of which take years to adjudicate. We accrue estimated costs for a contingency when we believe that a loss is probable and we can make a reasonable estimate of the loss, and adjust the accrual as appropriate to reflect changes in facts and circumstances.

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9. Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive income is a broad measure of the effects of all transactions and events (other than investments by or distributions to stockholders) that are recognized in stockholders' equity, regardless of whether those transactions and events are included in net income. The following table adjusts the Company's net income for the other items included in the determination of comprehensive income:

(Dollars in millions)	Three Months Ended July 31,	
	2007	2008
	-----	-----
Net income	\$ 95.3	\$ 88.2
Other comprehensive income (loss):		
Net (loss) gain on cash flow hedges	(0.4)	2.0
Net loss on securities	(0.1)	--
Postretirement benefits adjustment	2.0	10.1
Foreign currency translation adjustment	1.4	9.7
	-----	-----
	2.9	21.8
	-----	-----
Comprehensive income	\$ 98.2	\$110.0
	=====	=====

Accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) consisted of the following:

(Dollars in millions)	April 30, 2008	July 31, 2008
	-----	-----
Postretirement benefits adjustment	\$(87.8)	\$(77.7)
Cumulative translation adjustment	99.1	108.8
Unrealized loss on cash flow hedge contracts	(6.3)	(4.3)
	-----	-----
	\$ 5.0	\$ 26.8
	=====	=====

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10. Fair Value Measurements

In September 2006, the FASB issued Statement No. 157, "Fair Value Measurements" (FAS 157), which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. FAS 157 defines fair value as the exchange price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability in the principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. FAS 157 establishes a three-level hierarchy based upon the assumptions (inputs) used to determine fair value. Level 1 provides the most reliable measure of fair value, while Level 3 generally requires significant management judgment. The three levels are:

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- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2: Observable inputs other than those included in Level 1, such as quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be derived from or corroborated by observable market data.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity.

In February 2008, the FASB issued FSP 157-2, "Effective Date of FASB Statement No. 157," which permits a one-year deferral for the implementation of FAS 157 as it relates to nonfinancial assets and liabilities that are not recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements on a recurring basis (at least annually), such as goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets. We elected to defer adoption of the provisions of FAS 157 that relate to such items until the beginning of our 2010 fiscal year. We do not expect our adoption to have a material impact on our financial statements. We adopted the other provisions of FAS 157 on May 1, 2008, with no material impact on our financial statements.

As of July 31, 2008, the fair values of our financial assets and liabilities are as follows:

(Dollars in millions)	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Assets:				
Commodity contracts	\$7.4	\$7.4	--	--
Liabilities:				
Foreign currency contracts	\$8.6	--	\$8.6	--

The fair value of commodity contracts is based on quoted prices in active markets. The fair value of foreign exchange contracts is determined through pricing from brokers who develop values based on inputs observable in active markets.

In February 2007, the FASB issued Statement No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" (FAS 159). FAS 159, which became effective as of May 1, 2008, provides the option to measure at fair value many financial instruments and certain other items for which fair value measurement is not required. We have currently chosen not to elect this option.

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11. Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement No. 141(R), "Business Combinations" (FAS 141(R)), which establishes accounting principles and disclosure requirements for all transactions in which a company obtains control over another business.

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement No. 160, "Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements" (FAS 160), which prescribes the accounting by a parent company for minority interests held by other parties in a subsidiary of the parent company.

In March 2008, the FASB issued Statement No. 161, "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" (FAS 161), which requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative

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disclosures about fair value amounts of and gains and losses on derivative instruments, and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements.

FAS 141(R) and FAS 160 become effective as of the beginning of our 2010 fiscal year, while FAS 161 becomes effective as of the end of our 2009 fiscal year. We do not expect our adoption of these pronouncements will have a material impact on our financial statements.

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

You should read the following discussion and analysis along with our 2008 Annual Report. Note that the results of operations for the three months ended July 31, 2008, do not necessarily indicate what our operating results for the full fiscal year will be. In this Item, "we," "us," and "our" refer to Brown-Forman Corporation.

Important Note on Forward-Looking Statements:

This report contains statements, estimates, or projections that constitute "forward-looking statements" as defined under U.S. federal securities laws. Generally, the words "expect," "believe," "intend," "estimate," "will," "anticipate," and "project," and similar expressions identify a forward-looking statement, which speaks only as of the date the statement is made. Except as required by law, we do not intend to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. We believe that the expectations and assumptions with respect to our forward-looking statements are reasonable. But by their nature, forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that in some cases are out of our control. These factors could cause our actual results to differ materially from Brown-Forman's historical experience or our present expectations or projections. Here is a non-exclusive list of such risks and uncertainties:

- continuation of the deterioration in general economic conditions (particularly in the United States where we earn about half of our profits, and other markets where we do significant business), including higher energy prices, declining home prices, deterioration of the sub-prime lending market, interest rate fluctuations, inflation, decreased discretionary income or other factors;

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- pricing, marketing and other competitive activity focused against our major brands;
- lower consumer confidence or purchasing related to economic conditions, major natural disasters, terrorist attacks or widespread outbreak of infectious diseases;
- tax increases and/or tariff barriers or other restrictions affecting beverage alcohol, whether at the federal or state level in the U.S. or in other major markets around the world, and the unpredictability or suddenness with which they can occur;
- limitations and restrictions on distribution of products and alcohol marketing, including advertising and promotion, as a result of stricter governmental policies adopted either in the United States or in our other major markets;
- fluctuations in the U.S. Dollar against foreign currencies, especially the British Pound, Euro, Australian Dollar, Polish Zloty and the South African Rand;
- reduced bar, restaurant, hotel and other on-premise business, including

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- consumer shifts to discount stores and other price sensitive purchases and venues;
- longer-term, a change in consumer preferences, societal attitudes or cultural trends that results in the reduced consumption of our products;
 - changes in distribution arrangements in major markets that limit our ability to market or sell our products;
 - adverse impacts relating to our acquisition strategies or our integration of acquired businesses and conforming them to the company's trade practice standards, financial controls environment and U.S. public company requirements;
 - price increases in energy or raw materials, including grapes, grain, agave, wood, glass, and plastic;
 - changes in climate conditions, agricultural uncertainties or other supply limitations that adversely affect the price, availability, quality, or health of grapes, agave, grain, glass, closures or wood;
 - termination of our rights to distribute and market agency brands in our portfolio;
 - press articles or other public media related to our company, brands, personnel, operations, business performance or prospects;
 - counterfeit production, tampering, or contamination of our products and any resulting negative effect on our sales, intellectual property rights, or brand equity;
 - adverse developments stemming from state or federal investigations of beverage alcohol industry marketing or trade practices of suppliers, distributors or retailers; and
 - impairment in the recorded value of inventory, fixed assets, goodwill or other acquired intangibles.

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Results of Operations:

First Quarter Fiscal 2009 Compared to First Quarter Fiscal 2008

A summary of our operating performance (dollars expressed in millions, except per share amounts) is presented below. Continuing Operations consist of our beverage business. Discontinued Operations consisted of Hartmann and Brooks & Bentley, wholly-owned subsidiaries that we sold in fiscal 2007. Those subsidiaries, along with Lenox, Inc., the wholly-owned subsidiary that we sold in fiscal 2006, comprised our former consumer durables business.

	Three Months Ended		
	July 31,		
CONTINUING OPERATIONS	2007	2008	Change
	-----	-----	-----
Net sales	\$739.1	\$790.0	7%
Gross profit	391.0	380.8	(3%)
Advertising expenses	94.0	97.0	3%
Selling, general, and administrative expenses	143.1	144.3	1%
Amortization expense	1.3	1.3	
Other (income), net	(2.8)	(2.4)	
Operating income	155.4	140.6	(10%)
Interest expense, net	11.1	7.5	
Income before income taxes	144.3	133.1	(8%)
Income taxes	48.9	44.9	
Net income	95.4	88.2	(8%)
 Gross margin	 52.9%	 48.2%	
Effective tax rate	33.9%	33.8%	

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Earnings per share:			
Basic	\$0.77	\$0.73	(5%)
Diluted	0.77	0.73	(5%)

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Net sales for the three months ended July 31, 2008 were \$790.0 million, up \$50.9 million or 7% over the prior-year period. Sales outside the U.S. constituted slightly more than half of our total sales in the quarter. The major factors driving the increase in net sales were:

	Growth vs. Prior Period
Foreign exchange(1)	5%
Estimated net change in trade inventories(2)	(1%)
Discontinued agency brands(3)	(1%)
Underlying net sales growth	4%

Reported net sales growth	7%
	=====

The following discussion highlights net sales and depletion(4) results for several brands:

- Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey first quarter reported net sales increased in the mid-single digits, or in the low single digits on a constant currency basis(5), reflecting the benefit of price increases. Global depletions declined 1% for the period as gains in Eastern Europe, including countries such as Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, and Russia, Latin America, and Southeast Asia were offset by declines in markets with softening economies, particularly Germany, the U.K., and South Africa. Depletions were flat for the period in the U.S.
- Finlandia net sales increased by double digits on both a reported and a constant currency basis in the period, reflecting higher volumes and pricing gains. Global depletions grew in the high single digits, led by continued double-digit growth in Eastern Europe, which represents over 1.5 million of Finlandia's 2.9 million cases sold for the 12 months ended July 31, 2008. Several markets within this region of the world grew at double digits, including Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Hungary and Russia.

(1) Refers to net gains and losses incurred by the company relating to sales and purchases in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. We use the measure to understand the growth of the business on a constant dollar basis as fluctuations in exchange rates can distort the underlying growth of our business (both positively and negatively). To neutralize the effect of foreign exchange fluctuations, we have historically translated current year results at prior year rates. While we recognize that foreign exchange volatility is a reality for a global company, we routinely review our company performance on a constant dollar basis. We believe this allows both management and our investors to understand better our company's growth trends.

(2) Refers to the estimated financial impact of changes in wholesale trade inventories for the company's brands. We compute this effect using our estimated depletion trends and separately identify trade inventory changes in the variance analysis for our key measures. Based on the estimated depletions and the fluctuations in trade inventory levels, we then adjust the percentage variances from prior to current periods for our key measures. We believe it is important to make this adjustment in order for management

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and investors to understand the results of our business without distortions that can arise from varying levels of wholesale inventories.

- (3) Refers to the impact of certain agency brands, primarily Appleton, Amarula, Durbanville Hills, and Red Bull, which exited Brown-Forman's portfolio during fiscal 2008.
- (4) Depletions are shipments from wholesaler distributors to retail customers, and are commonly regarded in the industry as an approximate measure of consumer demand.
- (5) Constant currency represents reported net sales with the cost/benefit of currency movements removed. Management uses the measure to understand the growth of the business on a constant dollar basis, as fluctuations in exchange rates can distort the underlying growth of the business both positively and negatively.

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- Southern Comfort net sales, both reported and in constant currency, declined in the mid-single digits during the quarter. Volume declines, due in part to softness of the on-premise channel in the brand's major markets, the U.S. and the U.K, were offset only partially by the benefit of price increases.
- Gentleman Jack net sales increased over 40%. The brand's volume crossed the 200 thousand case milestone in the U.S. for the twelve months ended July 31, 2008. Jack Daniel's Single Barrel net sales grew in the high single digits. Jack Daniel's & Cola brand experienced significant volume declines in the quarter due to a substantial (70%) increase in ready-to-drink excise taxes in Australia. However, the brand's global reported net sales grew in the mid-single digits, reflecting the benefit of a weaker U.S. dollar and the increase in excise taxes in Australia.
- Sonoma-Cutrer, Bonterra, Chambord, Tuaca, and Woodford Reserve all grew net sales at double-digit rates for the quarter on both a reported and constant currency basis. Together these five brands are now approaching 1 million cases in depletions on a 12 month basis ended July 31, 2008.
- The Casa Herradura portfolio, which includes el Jimador, Herradura, New Mix tequila based ready-to-drink, Antiquo, and Suave 35, grew net sales by double digits on a reported basis and in the mid-single digits on a constant currency basis.

Our gross profit decreased \$10.2 million, or 3%, largely reflecting a \$22.4 million non-cash inventory write-down included in cost of sales related to agave plants identified during the quarter as dead or dying. During the three months ended July 31, 2008, a portion of our agave fields showed signs of abnormally high levels of mortality and disease, which has significantly reduced the amount of agave we expect to yield from some fields. The \$22.4 million provision was based on management's estimates of the extent of the loss in yield and the effectiveness of the measures we plan to undertake to combat the crop diseases and other agricultural factors contributing to the lower yield. Although this provision is based on management's best estimate at this time, it is at least reasonably possible that actual inventory losses could be significantly different, which could have a materially adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

The following table shows the major factors influencing the changes in gross profit for the quarter:

	Growth vs. Prior Period
Non-cash agave inventory write-down	(6%)
Discontinued agency brands	(1%)

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Estimated net change in trade inventories	(1%)
Foreign exchange	4%
Underlying gross profit growth	1%

Reported gross profit growth	(3%)
	=====

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Underlying gross profit growth for the quarter was driven by continued expansion of Finlandia and Jack Daniel's in Eastern Europe, gains in Latin America and Southeast Asia, double digit consumer demand for several of our super premium brands including Gentleman Jack, Sonoma-Cutrer, and Bonterra and higher overall gross profit for the Casa Herradura portfolio of brands. Slowing volume growth trends in some of our most developed markets in Western Europe, due in part to deteriorating economic conditions and shifts in consumer purchasing patterns to the off-premise in the U.K., and trade resistance to a price increase and a weak economy in Europe, partially offset these gains. In addition, cost inflation on grain and energy costs outpaced the rate of price increases resulting in lower growth in gross profit.

Our overall gross margin as a percent of net sales declined in the quarter due in part to the non-cash agave inventory write-down. In addition, an excise tax increase in Australia on ready-to-drink products impacting sales of Jack Daniel's & Cola in this market and higher cost of grain and fuel suppressed margins in the period.

Advertising investments increased 3% over the prior year first quarter, reflecting the impact of a weaker U.S. dollar and the absence of spending behind agency brands that we have ceased selling. Underlying advertising investments were flat for the quarter, as we have shifted the seasonality of some investments to later in the year and have reallocated spending to those brands, markets, and channels where we believe the consumer and trade are more responsive to the investments.

Selling, general, and administrative expenses increased 1% over the first quarter last year, as the effect of a weaker U.S. dollar was nearly offset by lower transition costs related to the fiscal 2007 Casa Herradura acquisition, tight management of discretionary expenses, and the leveraging of investments made in prior years.

Operating income declined \$14.8 million, or 10% from the first quarter of last year. Operating income was impacted by the \$22.4 million pre-tax non-cash charge related to an abnormal number of agave plants identified during the quarter as dead or dying, as described above. The following table summarizes the major factors influencing the change in operating income for the quarter:

	Growth vs. Prior Period
Non-cash agave inventory write-down	(15%)
Estimated net change in trade inventories	(3%)
Discontinued agency brands	(1%)
Reduced transition expenses from acquisitions	2%
Foreign exchange	4%
Underlying operating income growth	3%

Reported operating income growth	(10%)
	=====

Net interest expense decreased by \$3.6 million, reflecting a shift in total debt

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from higher rate fixed debt to lower rate variable debt. Additionally, an overall reduction in debt levels also contributed to this reduction in net interest expense.

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The effective tax rate in the quarter was 33.8% compared to 33.9% reported in the first quarter of fiscal 2008. Our effective tax rate was negatively affected by the \$6.7 million tax benefit on the provision for agave losses recorded in the quarter. Adjusting for this item, our effective tax rate for the quarter was 33.2%. A shift in the mix of our income from higher tax jurisdictions to lower tax jurisdictions when compared to last year is driving this lower rate.

Reported earnings per share of \$0.73 for the quarter declined 5% from the \$0.77 earned in the same prior year period. Excluding the impact of the \$0.13 per share non-cash write-down of agave inventory, underlying growth in operating income, a reduction of net interest expense, a lower effective tax rate (excluding the tax effect of the write-down of agave), and fewer shares outstanding following the fiscal 2008 share repurchase contributed to the growth in earnings for the quarter.

FULL-YEAR OUTLOOK

Due to the non-cash agave charge in the quarter, we have reduced our fiscal 2009 full year earnings per share guidance to a range of \$3.60 to \$3.85, representing growth of 1% to 8% over prior-year earnings. Excluding the charge, fiscal 2009 guidance remains unchanged. The guidance incorporates expectations of improving volumetric global trends for Jack Daniel's, benefits of price increases, continued cost pressures, continued control of discretionary operating expenses, lower net interest expense, and additional benefits from the fiscal 2008 share repurchase.

LIQUIDITY AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

Cash and cash equivalents increased \$41.3 million during the three months ended July 31, 2008, compared to a decrease of \$103.0 million during the same period last year. Cash provided by operations was \$104.7 million, down from \$128.4 million for the same three-month period last year. The decline primarily reflects a higher seasonal increase in inventory related to value (gift) packs in preparation of the upcoming holiday season and the absence of a refund of taxes related to the acquisition of Casa Herradura received in the first quarter of last year. Cash provided by investing activities declined from last year by \$74.6 million, largely reflecting last year's liquidation of \$85.6 million of short-term investments and the \$12.0 million acquisition of the Don Eduardo brand name. Cash used for financing activities decreased by \$239.9 million from last year, primarily reflecting the \$203.7 million special distribution to shareholders in May 2007 and a \$48.6 million reduction in net debt repayments.

On July 24, 2008, our Board of Directors approved a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.34 per share on Class A and Class B Common Stock. Stockholders of record on September 8, 2008 will receive the cash dividend on October 1, 2008.

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RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement No. 141(R), "Business Combinations" (FAS 141(R)), which establishes accounting principles and disclosure requirements for all transactions in which a company obtains control over another business.

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In December 2007, the FASB issued Statement No. 160, "Noncontrolling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statements" (FAS 160), which prescribes the accounting by a parent company for minority interests held by other parties in a subsidiary of the parent company.

In March 2008, the FASB issued Statement No. 161, "Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" (FAS 161), which requires qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts of and gains and losses on derivative instruments, and disclosures about credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements.

FAS 141(R) and FAS 160 become effective as of the beginning of our 2010 fiscal year, while FAS 161 becomes effective as of the end of our 2009 fiscal year. We do not expect our adoption of these pronouncements will have a material impact on our financial statements.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk

We hold debt obligations, foreign currency forward and option contracts, and commodity futures contracts that are exposed to risk from changes in interest rates, foreign currency exchange rates, and commodity prices, respectively. Established procedures and internal processes govern the management of these market risks. As of July 31, 2008, we do not consider the exposure to these market risks to be material.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

The Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") of Brown-Forman (its principal executive and principal financial officers) have evaluated the effectiveness of the company's "disclosure controls and procedures" (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act")) as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, the CEO and CFO concluded that the company's disclosure controls and procedures: are effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the company in the reports filed or submitted by it under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms; and include controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the company in such reports is accumulated and communicated to the company's management, including the CEO and the CFO, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure. There has been no change in the company's internal control over financial reporting during the most recent fiscal quarter that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the company's internal control over financial reporting.

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PART II - OTHER INFORMATION

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

The following table provides information about shares of our common stock that we repurchased during the quarter ended July 31, 2008:

Total Number of Shares	Average Price Paid	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced	of Y Un
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Period	Purchased	per Share	Plans or Programs
May 1, 2008 - May 31, 2008	3,892	\$68.62	--
Total	3,892	\$68.62	--

These shares were received from an employee to satisfy income tax withholding obligations triggered by the employee's retirement from the Company.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

At the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company held July 24, 2008, the persons named below were elected to serve as directors until the next annual election of directors, or until a successor has been elected and qualified. Each director received the votes of at least 90.4% of the Class A shares present for the meeting.

	For	Withheld
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Patrick Bousquet-Chavanne	54,132,551	7,792
Barry D. Bramley	49,457,201	4,683,142
Geo. Garvin Brown IV	53,179,662	960,681
Martin S. Brown, Jr.	53,258,955	881,388
Donald G. Calder	54,021,501	118,842
Sandra A. Frazier	53,138,045	1,002,298
Richard P. Mayer	49,526,641	4,613,702
William E. Mitchell	54,125,964	14,379
Matthew R. Simmons	54,134,490	5,853
William M. Street	48,982,742	5,157,601
Dace Brown Stubbs	53,205,687	934,656
Paul C. Varga	53,207,932	932,411
James S. Welch, Jr.	53,140,264	1,000,079

Item 6. Exhibits

- 31.1 CEO Certification pursuant to Section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 CFO Certification pursuant to Section 302 of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32 CEO and CFO Certification pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (not considered to be filed).

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements 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.

BROWN-FORMAN CORPORATION
(Registrant)

Date: September 5, 2008

By: /s/ Donald C. Berg
Donald C. Berg
Executive Vice President

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and Chief Financial Officer
(On behalf of the Registrant and
as Principal Financial Officer)

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Exhibit 31.1

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, Paul C. Varga, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Brown-Forman Corporation;
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 function):

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- 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: September 5, 2008

By: /s/ Paul C. Varga
Paul C. Varga
Chief Executive Officer

Exhibit 31.2

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 302 OF SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

I, Donald C. Berg, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Quarterly report on Form 10-Q of Brown-Forman Corporation;
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

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- 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 function):
- 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: September 5, 2008

By: /s/ Donald C. Berg
Donald C. Berg
Chief Financial Officer

Exhibit 32

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

In connection with the Quarterly Report of Brown-Forman Corporation ("the Company") on Form 10-Q for the period ended July 31, 2008, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Report"), each of the undersigned hereby certifies, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, in the capacity as an officer of the Company, that:

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

Date: September 5, 2008

By: /s/ Paul C. Varga
Paul C. Varga
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

By: /s/ Donald C. Berg
Donald C. Berg
Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

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A signed original of this written statement required by Section 906 has been provided to the Company and will be retained by the Company and furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission or its staff upon request.

This certificate is being furnished solely for purposes of Section 906 and is not being filed as part of the Periodic Report.