Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6047(e), and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2009

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2009 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2009 and ending 12/31/2009

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan;
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan; or
- [X] a single-employer plan;
- [ ] a DFE (specify) ____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report;
- [ ] the final return/report;
- [ ] an amended return/report;
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months).

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] Form 5558;
- [ ] automatic extension;
- [ ] the DFVC program;
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
THE CONTAINER STORE, INC. 401(K) PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1989

2a Plan sponsor's name and address (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
(Address should include room or suite no.)
THE CONTAINER STORE INC.

500 FREEPORT PARKWAY
COPPELL, TX 75019-3863

500 FREEPORT PARKWAY
COPPELL, TX 75019-3863

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
75-1596981

2c Sponsor's telephone number
972-538-6000

2d Business code (see instructions)
442299

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	07/08/2010	CLAUDINE TUDGAY
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address (if same as plan sponsor, enter "Same")
THE CONTAINER STORE INC.

500 FREEPORT PARKWAY
COPPELL, TX 75019-3863

3b Administrator's EIN
75-1596981

3c Administrator's telephone number
972-538-6000

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the name, EIN and the plan number from the last return/report:
a Sponsor's name

4b EIN

4c PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	3719
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year (welfare plans complete only lines **6a, 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a	Active participants	**6a**	3213
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	5
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	227
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	3445
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits	**6e**	2
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**	**6f**	3447
g	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	1713
h	Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	83
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:
2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3D 3H

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)		Insurance
(2)		Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	X	Trust
(4)		General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

(1)		Insurance
(2)		Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3)	X	Trust
(4)		General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

(1)	X	**R** (Retirement Plan Information)
(2)		**MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
(3)		**SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary

b General Schedules

(1)	X	**H** (Financial Information)
(2)		**I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3)		___ **A** (Insurance Information)
(4)	X	**C** (Service Provider Information)
(5)		**D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
(6)		**G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Service Provider Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2009

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2009 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2009 and ending 12/31/2009

A Name of plan
THE CONTAINER STORE, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
THE CONTAINER STORE INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
75-1596981

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . [X] Yes [ ] No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

FID.INV.INST.OPS.CO.

04-2647786

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosure on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL

04-2647786

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
64 65 37 60	RECORDKEEPER	35289	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes [ ] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes [ ] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	**(c)** Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	**(d)** Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	**(e)** Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	**(f)** Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	**(g)** Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	**(h)** Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
ALLNZ NFJ DIV VAL AD - BOSTON FINAN 04-2526037	0.35%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
BARON GROWTH - DST SYSTEMS, INC. 43-1581814	0.40%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
DAVIS NY VENTURE A - BOSTON FINANCI 04-2526037	0.40%

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3 If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
LM CM VALUE FI - BOSTON FINANCIAL D 04-2526037	0.40%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
OAKMARK SELECT I - BOSTON FINANCIAL 04-2526037	0.35%

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS INSTITUTIONAL	60	0

(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.
PIMCO REAL RTN BD AD - BOSTON FINAN 04-2526037	0.25%

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN;
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN;
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2009

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2009 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2009 and ending 12/31/2009

A Name of plan
THE CONTAINER STORE, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
THE CONTAINER STORE INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
75-1596981

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	4221998	3730230
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	1499546	1473751
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	28908235	40082689
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

			(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:			
	(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
	(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e	Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f	Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	34629779	45286670
	Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g		
h	Operating payables	1h		
i	Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j	Other liabilities	1j		
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k	0	0
	Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	34629779	45286670

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

	Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a	**Contributions:**			
	(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	477779	
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	3706964	
	(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	108397	
	(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
	(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		4293140
b	**Earnings on investments:**			
	(1) Interest:			
	(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)	26945	
	(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
	(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
	(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
	(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	84342	
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
	(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		111287
	(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
	(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
	(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	750613	
	(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		750613
	(3) Rents	2b(3)		
	(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
	(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
	(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
2b (5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		7990291
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		13145331
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	2450084	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		2450084
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		2970
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)	15	
(4) Other	2i(4)	35371	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4)	2i(5)		35386
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		2488440
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		10656891
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) [ ] Unqualified (2) [ ] Qualified (3) [X] Disclaimer (4) [ ] Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)? [X] Yes [ ] No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: BKD, LLP (2) EIN: 44-0160260

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete 4l.

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a	Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	4a		X	
b	Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	4b		X	
c	Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	4c		X	
d	Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	4d		X	
e	Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	4e	X		1000000
f	Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	4f		X	
g	Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4g		X	
h	Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	4h		X	
i	Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4i	X		
j	Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	4j		X	
k	Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	4k		X	
l	Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	4l		X	
m	If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	4m		X	
n	If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	4n		X	

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? If yes, enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year ☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **Amount:**

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2009

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2009 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2009 and ending 12/31/2009

A Name of plan
THE CONTAINER STORE, INC. 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
THE CONTAINER STORE INC.

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
75-1596981

Part I Distributions

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions **1** 0

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 04-6568107

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year. **3**

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section of 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6 **a** Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year **6a**

b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year **6b**

c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) **6c**

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Part III Amendments

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box(es). If no, check the "No" box. ..... ☐ **Increase** ☐ **Decrease** ☐ **Both** ☐ **No**

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under Section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

11 **a** Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete items 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

14 Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:

a The current year	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If item 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete items (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:
☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate item 19(b)?
☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify):

The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan

EIN 75-1596981 PN 002

Accountants' Report and Financial Statements

December 31, 2009 and 2008

BKD LLP
CPAs & Advisors

The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan
December 31, 2009 and 2008

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BKD LLP
CPAs & Advisors

14241 Dallas Parkway, Suite 1100
Dallas, TX 75254-2961
972.702.8262 Fax 972.702.0673 www.bkd.com

Independent Accountants' Report

To the Plan Sponsor and Participants of
The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan

We were engaged to audit the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended and the accompanying supplemental schedule. These financial statements and schedule are the responsibility of the Plan's management.

As permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the plan administrator instructed us not to perform, and we did not perform, auditing procedures with respect to the information summarized in Note 3, which was certified by Fidelity Management Trust Company, the trustee of the Plan, except for comparing such information with the related information included in the financial statements and supplemental schedule. We have been informed by the plan administrator that the trustee holds the Plan's investment assets and executes investment transactions. The plan administrator has obtained certifications from the trustee as of and for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, that the information provided to the plan administrator by the trustee is complete and accurate.

Because of the significance of the information that we did not audit, we are unable to, and do not, express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements and schedule taken as a whole. The form and content of the information included in the financial statements and schedule, other than that derived from the information certified by the trustee, have been audited by us in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and, in our opinion, are presented in compliance with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

BKD, LLP

Dallas, Texas
June 21, 2010

Federal Employer Identification Number: 44-0160260

experience BKD

Praxity
MEMBER
GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT FIRMS

The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2009 and 2008

Assets

	2009	2008
Investments, at Fair Value		
Mutual funds	$ 40,082,689	$ 28,908,235
Money market fund	3,730,230	4,221,998
Partcipant loans	1,473,751	1,499,546
	45,286,670	34,629,779
Receivables		
Employer's contribution	-	4,004
Participants' contributions	-	6,653
	-	10,657
Total Assets	45,286,670	34,640,436

Liabilities

Excess contributions payable	(41,905)	-
Net Assets Available for Benefits	$ 45,244,765	$ 34,640,436

The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Years Ended December 31, 2009 and 2008

	2009	2008
Investment Income (Loss)		
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	$ 7,990,907	$ (15,236,595)
Interest and dividends	861,285	181,797
Net investment income (loss)	8,852,192	(15,054,798)
Contributions		
Participants	3,658,406	4,293,454
Employer	473,775	2,043,409
Rollovers	108,397	170,935
Total Contributions	4,240,578	6,507,798
Deductions		
Benefits paid to participants	2,453,054	2,473,151
Administrative expenses	35,387	47,620
Total deductions	2,488,441	2,520,771
Net Increase (Decrease)	10,604,329	(11,067,771)
Net Assets Available for Benefits, Beginning of Year	34,640,436	45,708,207
Net Assets Available for Benefits, End of Year	$ 45,244,765	$ 34,640,436

The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2009 and 2008

Note 1. Description of the Plan

The following description of The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document and *Summary Plan Description*, which are available from the plan administrator, for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan which covers all eligible employees of The Container Store, Inc. (the "Company") who have eleven months of service and are age twenty-one or older. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Fidelity Management Trust Company is the trustee of the Plan.

Effective March 22, 2009, the plan was amended to discontinue the safe harbor matching employer contribution provisions. Effective August 14, 2009, the Company adopted a Fidelity volume submitter plan document.

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute from 1% to 60% of pretax annual compensation, as defined in the Plan. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans and participants age fifty or older can make catch-up contributions.

For the period January 1, 2009 through March 21, 2009 and during the 2008 plan year, the Company made safe harbor matching contributions of 100% of the participant's deferrals, limited to 4% of the participant's compensation. Effective March 22, 2009, the Plan was amended to discontinue the safe harbor matching provisions and to elect discretionary matching employer contribution provisions. The Company did not make any discretionary contributions to the Plan during the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008. Contributions are subject to certain limitations.

Participant Investment Account Options

Investment account options available include various funds. Each participant has the option of directing his contributions into any of the separate investment accounts and may change the allocation daily.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and allocations of the Company's contributions and Plan earnings. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined in the Plan. The benefits to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account balance.

Note 1. Description of the Plan (Continued)

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their contributions and safe harbor matching employer contributions, plus earnings thereon. Vesting in other employer contributions, and actual earnings thereon, is based on years of service in accordance with the following schedule:

Years of Service	Vesting Percentage
Less than 2	0%
2	20%
3	40%
4	60%
5	80%
6 or more	100%

Payment of Benefits

Distribution of a participant's vested account balance is available upon the participant's retirement, death, disability, termination of employment, attainment of age 59 ½, or for a financial hardship meeting the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. If a participant is employed by the Company at the time of death or disability, or upon meeting the retirement requirements, he or she will automatically become 100% vested. Distributions are lump sum payments to the participant, or the participant's beneficiary in the case of death, or rollovers into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or another qualified plan.

Participant Loans

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of 50% of their vested account balance or $50,000. The loan is secured by the balance in the participant's account and bears a rate of interest determined by the Plan administrator based on prevailing rates at the time of the loan. Principal and interest are repaid through monthly payroll deductions.

Forfeitures

At December 31, 2009 and 2008, forfeited non-vested accounts totaled $42,701 and $103,143, respectively. Forfeitures are retained in the Plan and used to pay administrative expenses.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants would become 100% vested in their employer contributions.

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets and changes in net assets, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Valuation of Investments and Income Recognition

Quoted market prices, if available, are used to value investments. Mutual funds are valued at the net asset value (NAV) of shares held by the Plan at year end. Participant loans are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Plan Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated July 15, 2003, that the Plan and related trust, as then designed, were in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") and therefore not subject to tax. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan Administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan and the related trust are currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC.

Payment of Benefits

Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

Administrative Expenses

The Company absorbs all administrative expenses of the Plan other than the investment management fees which are paid with forfeitures.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 21, 2010, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Note 3. Investments

The Plan's investments are held by Fidelity Management Trust Company. The Plan's investments (including investments bought, sold and held during the year) appreciated (depreciated) in fair value as follows:

	2009	
	Net Appreciation in Fair Value During Year	Fair Value End of Year
Mutual funds	$ 7,990,907	$ 40,082,689
Money market fund	-	3,730,230
Partcipant loans	-	1,473,751
	$ 7,990,907	$ 45,286,670

	2008	
	Net Depreciation in Fair Value During Year	Fair Value End of Year
Mutual funds	$ (15,236,595)	$ 28,908,235
Money market fund	-	4,221,998
Partcipant loans	-	1,499,546
	$ (15,236,595)	$ 34,629,779

Note 3. Investments (Continued)

The fair value of individual investments that represented five percent or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits were as follows:

	December 31, 2009	December 31, 2008
Fidelity Freedom 2030 Fund	$ 4,187,239	$ 2,815,138
Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund	3,730,230	4,221,998
Fidelity US Bond Index Fund	3,724,024	3,441,454
Fidelity Diversified International Fund	3,459,043	2,551,922
Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund	3,037,768	1,980,217
Fidelity Freedom 2020 Fund	2,785,290	1,949,876
Davis NY Venture	2,765,995	1,982,483
Fidelity Export and Multinational Fund	2,443,809	1,739,425
Spartan US Equity Index Fund	2,431,144	1,951,806
Fidelity Contra Fund	2,386,251	N/A
Allianz NFJ International Value	2,291,615	1,882,149

Interest and dividends realized on the Plan's investments for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 were $861,285 and $181,797, respectively.

Note 4. Party-in-Interest Transactions

Party-in-interest transactions include those with fiduciaries or employees of the Plan, any person who provides services to the Plan, an employer whose employees are covered by the Plan, an employee organization whose members are covered by the Plan, a person who owns 50 percent or more of such an employer or employee association, or relatives of such persons.

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by the Plan trustee. Forfeitures are used to pay fees for investment management services which totaled $35,387 and $47,620 for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008, respectively. The Company absorbs all other administrative expenses of the Plan.

Note 5. Fair Value of Plan Assets and Liabilities

ASC Topic 820, *Fair Value Measurements*, defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Topic 820 also specifies a fair value hierarchy which requires a plan to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the

Note 5. Fair Value of Plan Assets and Liabilities (Continued)

use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The standard describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1 Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3 Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits, as well as the general classification of such assets and liabilities pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

Investments

Where quoted market prices are available in an active market, securities are classified within Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy. Level 1 securities include money market funds and mutual funds. In certain cases where Level 1 or Level 2 inputs are not available, securities are classified within Level 3 of the hierarchy and include participant loans.

The following table presents the fair value measurements of assets and liabilities recognized in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits measured at fair value on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy in which the fair value measurements fall at December 31, 2009 and 2008.

		2009 Fair Value Measurements Using		
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Mutual funds	$ 40,082,689	$ 40,082,689	$ -	$ -
Money market funds	3,730,230	3,730,230	-	-

Note 5. Fair Value of Plan Assets and Liabilities (Continued)

Investments (Continued)

	2008 Fair Value Measurements Using			
	Fair Value	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Mutual funds	$ 28,908,235	$ 28,908,235	$ -	$ -
Money market funds	4,221,998	4,221,998	-	-

The following is a reconciliation of the beginning and ending balances of recurring fair value measurements recognized in the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits using significant unobservable (Level 3) inputs:

	Participant Loans
Balance, January 1, 2008	$ 1,382,032
New loans	773,842
Repayments	(656,328)
Balance, December 31, 2008	1,499,546
New loans	661,457
Repayments	(622,310)
Deemed distributions	(64,942)
Balance, December 31, 2009	$ 1,473,751

Realized and unrealized gains and losses included in net decrease in net assets available for benefits for the period from January 1, 2008, through December 31, 2009, are reported in net depreciation in fair value of investments in the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Note 6. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500 as of December 31, 2009 and 2008:

	2009	2008
Net assets available for benefits per financial statements	$ 45,244,765	$ 34,640,436
Contributions receivable	-	(10,657)
Excess contributions payable	41,905	-
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	$ 45,286,670	$ 34,629,779

The following is a reconciliation of net increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500 for the years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008:

	2009	2008
Net increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	$ 10,604,329	$ (11,067,771)
Participant contributions receivable	6,653	(6,653)
Employer contributions receivable	4,004	(4,004)
Excess contributions payable	41,905	-
Net increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	$ 10,656,891	$ (11,078,428)

Note 7. Significant Estimates and Concentrations

The current protracted economic decline continues to present employee benefit plans with difficult circumstances and challenges, which in some cases have resulted in large and unanticipated declines in the fair value of investments. The financial statements have been prepared using values and information currently available to the Plan.

Given the volatility of current economic conditions, the values of assets recorded in the financial statements could change rapidly, resulting in material future adjustments in investment values that could negatively impact the Plan.

Note 8. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

Supplemental Schedule

The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan

EIN 75-1596981 PN 002
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2009

Identity of Issuer (a)(b)	Description of Investment (c)	Current Value (e)
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2030 Fund	$ 4,187,239
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Retirement Money Market Fund	3,730,230
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity US Bond Index Fund	3,724,024
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Diversified International Fund	3,459,043
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Low-Priced Stock Fund	3,037,768
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2020 Fund	2,785,290
Davis Funds	Davis NY Venture Fund	2,765,995
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Export and Multinational Fund	2,443,809
*Fidelity Investments	Spartan US Equity Index Fund	2,431,144
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Contra Fund	2,386,251
Allianz Funds	Allianz NFJ International Value Fund	2,291,615
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Mid-Cap Stock Fund	2,023,699
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2040 Fund	1,795,131
Baron Capital Group	Baron Growth Fund	1,539,157
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2025 Fund	1,116,365
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2010 Fund	810,718
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2035 Fund	742,822
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2015 Fund	602,404
PIMCO Funds	PIMCO Real Return	518,919
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Value Fund	458,329
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Small-Cap Stock Fund	378,417
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2045 Fund	265,875
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2000 Fund	142,537
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2050 Fund	80,964
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom Income Fund	80,681
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2005 Fund	14,493
*Participant loans	Interest rates at a rate of 5.75%, maturing through November 2019, collateralized by participant accounts	1,473,751
		$ 45,286,670

* Party-in-interest as defined by ERISA.

The Container Store, Inc. 401(k) Plan

EIN 75-1596981 PN 002
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2009

Identity of Issuer (a)(b)	Description of Investment (c)	Current Value (e)
*Fidelity Investments	Fidelity Freedom 2030 Fund	$ 4,187,239
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