

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 6057(b) 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

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- A This return/report is for: [] a multiemployer plan [] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) [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)
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. []

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 003
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/2019
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): AMERICAN MERCHANDISING SPECIALISTS, INC.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 91-1951517
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 704-235-0144
2d Business code (see instructions): 541990

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	223
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	150
	6a(2)	147
	6b	0
	6c	39
	6d	186
	6e	0
	6f	186
	6g(1)	206
6g(2)	186	
6h	17	
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 Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2E 2I 2K 2P 2Q 3I

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> 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	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024	
A Name of plan AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 003
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 AMERICAN MERCHANDISING SPECIALISTS, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 91-1951517

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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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)	
(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)	
(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)	
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)	
(15) Other	1c(15)	

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	1d(1)	3990000	4298000
(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	3990000	4298000
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable.....	1g		
h Operating payables.....	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness.....	1i	24151337	23448835
j Other liabilities.....	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	1k	24151337	23448835
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	1l	-20161337	-19150835

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)	1411396	
(B) Participants.....	2a(1)(B)		
(C) Others (including rollovers).....	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions.....	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1411396
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	2b(1)(A)		
(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)		
(F) Other.....	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		0
(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)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		0
(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)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:			
(A) Real estate.....	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other.....	2b(5)(B)	308000	
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(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)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		1719396

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers.....	2e(1)	45334	
(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)		45334
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		663560
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)		
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses.....	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		0
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		708894

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		1010502
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) Unmodified (2) Qualified (3) Disclaimer (4) Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

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

(1) Name: **DAVIDSON, HOLLAND, WHITESELL & CO.**

(2) EIN: **56-1706742**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG 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 lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

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.)		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.)		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.)		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.)		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		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?		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?		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.)	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.)		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?		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		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.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? Yes No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

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)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) Yes No Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small> <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small> <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 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.	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small> 2024 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

A Name of plan <u>AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>003</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>AMERICAN MERCHANDISING SPECIALISTS, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>91-1951517</u>	

Part I	Distributions
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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	
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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): 33-6134835

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	
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Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)
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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 (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	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 or other authority 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
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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. 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.
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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 (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 lines 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 deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: <input type="checkbox"/> last contributing employer <input type="checkbox"/> alternative <input type="checkbox"/> reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment).....	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	14b	
c The second preceding plan year. <input type="checkbox"/> Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment).....	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 line 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 lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
 High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
 0-5 years 5-10 years 10-15 years 15 years or more

20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? Yes No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:
 Yes.
 No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.
 No. Other. Provide explanation: _____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? Yes No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).
 Design-based safe harbor method
 "Prior year" ADP test
 "Current year" ADP test
 N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ___/___/____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number _____.

Independent Auditor's Report

ESOP Committee
AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at year end) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Davidson, Holland, Whitesell & Co., PLLC

Hickory, North Carolina
July 18, 2025

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

December 31, 2024 and 2023

(With Independent Auditor's Reports Thereon)



**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

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December 31, 2024 and 2023

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Independent Auditor's Report

ESOP Committee
AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at year end) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion, the information in the accompanying schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole, and the form and content is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Davidson, Holland, Whitesell & Co., PLLC

Hickory, North Carolina
July 18, 2025

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Statement of Net Assets (Liabilities) Available for Benefits

December 31, 2024

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Assets:			
Investment in American Merchandising Specialists, Inc. common stock, at fair value	\$ 898,902	3,399,098	4,298,000
Total assets	898,902	3,399,098	4,298,000
Liabilities:			
Loan payable	-	23,448,835	23,448,835
Total liabilities	-	23,448,835	23,448,835
Net assets (liabilities) available for benefits	\$ 898,902	(20,049,737)	(19,150,835)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Statement of Net Assets (Liabilities) Available for Benefits

December 31, 2023

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Assets:			
Investment in American Merchandising Specialists, Inc. common stock, at fair value	\$ 700,319	3,289,681	3,990,000
Total assets	<u>700,319</u>	<u>3,289,681</u>	<u>3,990,000</u>
Liabilities:			
Loan payable	-	24,151,337	24,151,337
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>24,151,337</u>	<u>24,151,337</u>
Net assets (liabilities) available for benefits	<u>\$ 700,319</u>	<u>(20,861,656)</u>	<u>(20,161,337)</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Liabilities) Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2024

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Additions to net assets attributed to:			
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 54,056	253,944	308,000
Employer contribution	45,334	1,366,062	1,411,396
Allocation of 23,539 shares of common stock of American Merchandising Specialists, Inc., at fair value	144,527	(144,527)	-
Total additions	<u>243,917</u>	<u>1,475,479</u>	<u>1,719,396</u>
Deductions from net assets attributed to:			
Interest expense	-	663,560	663,560
Distributions to participants	45,334	-	45,334
Total deductions	<u>45,334</u>	<u>663,560</u>	<u>708,894</u>
Net increase in net assets available for benefits	198,583	811,919	1,010,502
Net assets (liabilities) available for benefits:			
Beginning of year	700,319	(20,861,656)	(20,161,337)
End of year	<u>\$ 898,902</u>	<u>(20,049,737)</u>	<u>(19,150,835)</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets (Liabilities) Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Additions to (deductions from) net assets attributed to:			
Net depreciation in fair value of			
investments	\$ (148,984)	(901,016)	(1,050,000)
Employer contributions	196,656	1,366,062	1,562,718
Allocation of 23,539 shares of common			
stock of American Merchandising Specialists, Inc.,			
at fair value	134,170	(134,170)	-
Total additions	<u>181,842</u>	<u>330,876</u>	<u>512,718</u>
Deductions from net assets attributed to:			
Interest expense	-	680,530	680,530
Distributions to participants	196,656	-	196,656
Total deductions	<u>196,656</u>	<u>680,530</u>	<u>877,186</u>
Net decrease in net assets available			
for benefits	(14,814)	(349,654)	(364,468)
Net assets (liabilities) available for benefits:			
Beginning of year	715,133	(20,512,002)	(19,796,869)
End of year	<u>\$ 700,319</u>	<u>(20,861,656)</u>	<u>(20,161,337)</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2024 and 2023

(1) Plan Description

The following description of the AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

(a) General

American Merchandising Specialists, Inc. (the "Company") established the AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP") on January 1, 2019. The ESOP currently operates, in relevant part, as a leveraged ESOP, and is designed to comply with Section 4975(e)(7) and the regulations thereunder of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (Code) and is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). The Board of Directors ("ESOP Committee") is responsible for the oversight of the Plan and determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings and monitors investment performance.

Miguel Paredes of Prudent Fiduciary Services is the Plan's Trustee ("Trustee").

(b) Contributions

The Plan purchased Company common shares using proceeds of a loan from the Company (see note 6), and holds the stock in a trust established under the Plan. The loan is to be repaid over a period of thirty years by fully deductible Company contributions to the Trust. Annually, an appropriate percentage of stock will be allocated to eligible employees' accounts in accordance with the ESOP plan document. Company contributions are first allocated to those participants contributing to the AMS 401(k) Plan as a safe harbor matching contribution. The remaining contribution is then allocated to all eligible participants pro rata based on eligible compensation.

The loan is collateralized by the unallocated shares of stock and is guaranteed by the Plan. The Company has no rights against the shares once they are allocated under the ESOP. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to the accounts of employees with vested rights in allocated stock (Allocated) and stock not yet allocated to employees (Unallocated).

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

(1) Plan Description, Continued

(c) Eligibility

Employees of the Company become eligible to participate following completion of one hour of service in the year of Plan inception. Employees of the Company become eligible to participate following completion of one year of service as defined by the Plan and attaining at least age 21, in all years after the year of Plan inception. An eligible non-excluded employee will begin participation in the Plan on the earlier of the first day of the plan year or the first day of the seventh month of the plan year (January 1 or July 1) coinciding with or following completion of the eligibility requirements.

(d) Participant Accounts

The Plan is a defined contribution plan under which a separate individual account is established for each participant. Each participant's account balance is credited as of the last day of each plan year with an allocation of shares of the Company's common stock released by the Trustee from the unallocated account and forfeitures of terminated participants' non vested accounts. Those who are participants in the AMS 401(k) Plan will first receive an allocation of the released shares for the employer safe harbor match contribution based on each participant's voluntary contributions to the AMS 401(k) Plan for that plan year. The remaining released shares are then allocated to participant accounts who are eligible for participation in the AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan as of the last day of the plan year. Allocations are based on a participant's eligible compensation, relative to total eligible compensation for the plan year.

(e) Vesting

Allocation of shares based on the safe harbor matching contribution for the AMS 401(k) Plan are 100% vested at the time those shares are allocated. All other allocated participant shares are vested as follows:

<u>Completed Years of Service</u>	<u>Percentage of Amount Vested</u>
Less than 2	0%
More than 2, less than 3	20
More than 3, less than 4	40
More than 4, less than 5	60
More than 5, less than 6	80
6 or more	100

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

(1) Plan Description, Continued

(e) Vesting, Continued

Additionally, participants will receive credit for one full year of vesting for every four years of service completed through the end of the Plan year of inception. If a participant's employment with the Company ends due to retirement, permanent disability, or death, he or she will be 100% vested.

(f) Put Option

Under Federal income tax regulations, the employer stock that is held by the Plan and its participants and is not readily tradable on an established market, or subject to trading limitations, includes a put option. The put option is a right to demand that the Company buy any shares of its stock distributed to participants for which there is no market. The put price is representative of the current appraised value of the stock. The Company can pay for the purchase with interest over a period of five years. The purpose of the put option is to ensure that the participant has the ability to ultimately obtain cash.

(g) Diversification

Diversification is offered to participants close to retirement so that they may have the opportunity to move part of the value of their investment in Company common stock into investments which are more diversified. Participants who are at least age 55 with at least 10 years of participation in the Plan may elect to diversify a portion of their account. Diversification is offered to each eligible participant over a six-year election period. In each of the first five years, a participant may diversify up to 25% of the number of post-1986 shares allocated to his or her account, less any shares previously diversified during the ninety day period following year end. During the last ninety day period in the sixth year, the percentage changes to 50%. Participants who elect to diversify receive a cash distribution. Participants eligible to diversify make their election after year-end based on the number of shares of the employer's stock held in their account at year-end.

(h) Forfeitures

Employer contributions and Plan forfeitures are allocated to each participant's account based upon the relation of the participant's compensation to total compensation for the Plan year. Forfeitures of terminated non-vested account balances allocated to remaining participants at December 31, 2024 and 2023, totaled \$16,266 and \$0, respectively.

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

(1) Plan Description, Continued

(i) Payment of Benefits

No distributions from the Plan will be made until a participant retires, dies (in which case, payment shall be made to his or her beneficiary or, if none, his or her legal representatives), or otherwise terminates employment with the Company. Distributions are made in cash or, if a participant elects, in the form of Company common stock plus cash for any fractional shares.

(j) Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses for the Trustee's fees and for the annual appraisals of the Company's stock can be paid by either the Company or from the Trust. For the plan years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, all administrative expenses of the Plan were paid by the Company.

(k) Voting Rights

The Trustee shall vote all shares of Company stock held by it as part of the Plan; provided, however, that if any agreement entered into by the Trust provides for the voting of any shares of Company stock pledged as security for any obligation of the Plan, then such shares of Company stock shall be voted in accordance with such an agreement.

Each participant or beneficiary in the Plan shall be entitled to direct the Trustee as to the manner in which voting rights on shares of the Company stock which are to be allocated to the Company stock account of such participant or beneficiary are to be exercised with respect to any corporate matter which involves the voting of such shares with respect to the approval or disapproval of any corporate merger or consolidation, recapitalization, reclassification, liquidation, dissolution, sale of substantially all assets of a trade or business, or such similar transaction as prescribed in regulations. Any Company stock as to which a participant or beneficiary is entitled to direct the Trustee as to the manner in which to vote but for which voting directions are not received by the Trustee shall be voted by the Trustee in its discretion.

(l) Plan Termination

The Company reserves the right to terminate the Plan at any time, subject to the Plan provisions. Upon such termination of the Plan, each participant becomes 100% vested and the interest of each participant in the trust fund will be distributed to such participants or his or her beneficiary at the time prescribed by the Plan terms and the Internal Revenue Code.

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following are the significant accounting policies followed by the Plan:

(a) Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accounting records with respect to the plan administration are maintained by Gilliam Bell Moser LLP, the record keeper of the Plan. Investment decisions are made by the ESOP Committee.

(b) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of Plan assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(c) Allocations

The financial statements of the Plan present separately the assets and liabilities and changes therein pertaining to (a) the accounts of employees with rights in allocated stock (“allocated”) and (b) stock not yet allocated to employees (“unallocated”), including shares that are committed to be released. Shares are released from collateral and become allocated generally in the period in which debt service is actually paid.

(d) Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

The shares of Company common stock are valued at fair value. See note 3 for discussion of fair value measurements.

(3) Fair Value Measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

(3) Fair Value Measurements, Continued

Level 1	Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the plan has the ability to access.
Level 2	<p>Inputs to the valuation methodology include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; • quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; • inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; • inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. <p>If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.</p>
Level 3	Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2024 and 2023.

American Merchandising Specialists, Inc. common stock: Valued at fair market value based upon an independent appraisal. This appraisal was based upon a combination of the discounted cash flow method and capitalized cash flow method valuation techniques consistent with prior years.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	<u>2024</u> <u>Level 3</u>	<u>2023</u> <u>Level 3</u>
Investments:		
Investment in American Merchandising Specialists, Inc.	\$ 4,298,000	3,990,000
Total investments	\$ 4,298,000	3,990,000

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

(4) Investments

Information about the Plan's investment in American Merchandising Specialists, Inc.'s common stock, a Level 3 asset, at December 31, 2024 and 2023 is as follows:

	<u>2024</u>		
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Shares	<u>146,403</u>	<u>553,597</u>	<u>700,000</u>
Cost	<u>\$ 5,856,037</u>	<u>\$ 22,143,963</u>	<u>\$ 28,000,000</u>
Fair Value	<u>\$ 898,902</u>	<u>\$ 3,399,098</u>	<u>\$ 4,298,000</u>
	<u>2023</u>		
	<u>Allocated</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of Shares	<u>122,864</u>	<u>577,136</u>	<u>700,000</u>
Cost	<u>\$ 4,914,493</u>	<u>\$ 23,085,507</u>	<u>\$ 28,000,000</u>
Fair Value	<u>\$ 700,319</u>	<u>\$ 3,289,681</u>	<u>\$ 3,990,000</u>

(5) Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan's investments consist primarily of the Company's common stock, which is exposed to various risks, including interest rate, market, and credit risks, as well as valuation assumptions based on earnings and cash flows. Due to the level of risk associated with the investment in the common stock and to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of the common stock will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

(6) Related Party Transactions

Gilliam Bell Moser LLP is the record keeper of the Plan and as such, transactions with the record keeper qualify as party-in-interest transactions under ERISA. The Plan's assets, which consist principally of American Merchandising Specialists, Inc. common stock, are held by the Trustee of the Plan. Company contributions are managed by the Trustee, which invests cash received, interest, dividend income, and makes distributions to participants. Transactions with the trustee qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Personnel and facilities of the Company have been used to perform administrative functions for the Plan at no charge to the Plan. These party-in-interest transactions are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules of ERISA.

(7) Tax Status

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on March 1, 2022, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code (the "IRC"). The plan administrator believes the Plan is designed and currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan Administrator believes the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Department of Labor or Internal Revenue Service. The plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however there are currently no audits for any tax periods in process.

(8) Loan Payable

On May 31, 2019, the Trust entered into a \$28 million term loan with American Merchandising Solutions, Inc. The proceeds of the loan were used to purchase the Company's common stock. The loan balance on December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$23,448,835 and \$24,151,337, respectively. As of December 31, 2024 and 2023, unallocated shares of 553,597 and 577,136, respectively, were collateral for the loan. Investment stock is released from the pledge as it is allocated to participants. During each of the years ending December 31, 2024 and 2023, 23,539 shares were released. The loan agreement calls for the loan to be repaid over thirty years at a rate of 2.740%.

**AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN**

Notes to Financial Statements, Continued

(8) Loan Payable, Continued

The scheduled amortization of the loan for the next five years and thereafter is as follows:

<u>Years Ending December 31</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2025	\$ 723,564
2026	743,390
2027	763,758
2028	783,093
2029	806,142
Thereafter	19,628,888
	<u>\$ 23,448,835</u>

(9) Employer Contributions

The Company is obligated to make cash contributions to the Plan which equals the amount necessary to enable the Plan to make its regularly scheduled payments of principal and interest due on its term loan to the company. During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, the Company made contributions to the Plan in the amount of \$1,411,396 and \$1,562,718, respectively.

(10) Benefits Payable

There were no benefits payable to persons who have withdrawn from participation in the earnings and operations of the Plan for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023.

(11) Subsequent Events

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through July 18, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued. There were no significant subsequent events identified which require disclosure in the financial statements or footnotes.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
EIN: 91-1951517
Plan Number: 003
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor, or similar party	Description of investment including par value and shares	Cost	Current Value	
*	American Merchandisings Specialists, Inc.	Common Stock, \$1 Par Value Allocated 146,403 Shares	\$ 5,856,037	898,902
*	American Merchandisings Specialists, Inc.	Common Stock, \$1 Par Value Unallocated 553,597 Shares	22,143,963	3,399,098
Total Investments			\$ 28,000,000	4,298,000

Notes:

An asterisk (*) in column (a) denotes a party-in-interest.

AMS RETAIL SOLUTIONS
EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN
EIN: 91-1951517
Plan Number: 003
Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2024

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor, or similar party	Description of investment including par value and shares	Cost	Current Value	
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Total Investments			\$ 28,000,000	4,298,000

Notes:

An asterisk (*) in column (a) denotes a party-in-interest.

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

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

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- A This return/report is for: a multiemployer plan, a multiple-employer plan, a single-employer plan, a DFE (specify), the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
B This return/report is:
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.
D Check box if filing under: Form 5558, automatic extension, the DFVC program, special extension (enter description)
E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here.

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan: AMS Retail Solutions Employee Stock Ownership Plan
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 003
1c Effective date of plan: 01/01/2019
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan): American Merchandising Specialists, Inc.
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 91-1951517
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: (704) 235-0144
2d Business code (see instructions): 541990

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature, Date, and Name. Row 1: Angela Fox, 9.30.2025, Angela Fox. Row 2: Signature of employer/plan sponsor, Date, Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor. Row 3: Signature of DFE, Date, Enter name of individual signing as DFE.

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

3a Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN	
	4d PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5	223
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1)	150
	6a(2)	147
	6b	0
	6c	39
	6d	186
	6e	0
	6f	186
	6g(1)	206
6g(2)	186	
6h	17	
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 Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
2E 2I 2K 2P 2Q 3I

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

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> 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	b General Schedules
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> I (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> A (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> DCG (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> C (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> MEP (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) Yes No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____
