

# US XPRESS ENTERPRISES INC

## FORM 10-K (Annual Report)

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Industry	Trucking
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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM 10-K

(Mark One)

☐ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

☒ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from April 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997

Commission file number 0-24806

### U.S. XPRESS ENTERPRISES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEVADA

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

62-1378182

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2931 SOUTH MARKET STREET

Chattanooga, Tennessee

37410

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (423) 697-7377

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SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(B) OF THE ACT: NONE

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SECURITIES REGISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(G) OF THE ACT: CLASS A COMMON STOCK, \$0.01 PAR VALUE

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Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

YES X NO

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of Registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendments to this Form 10-K. ☐

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrant was \$141,707,964.50 as of March 13, 1998 (based upon the \$19.625 per share average of the closing bid and asked price on that date as reported by NASDAQ). In making this calculation the Registrant has assumed, without admitting for any purpose, that all executive officers, directors, and holders of more than 10% of a class of outstanding common stock, and no other persons, are affiliates.

As of March 13, 1998, the Registrant had 12,006,440 shares of Class A Common Stock and 3,040,262 shares of Class B Common Stock outstanding.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: The information set forth under Part III, Items 11, 12, and 13 of this Report is incorporated by reference from the Registrant's definitive proxy statement dated March 30, 1998 for the 1998 annual meeting of stockholders.

## PART I

### ITEM 1. BUSINESS

This report contains forward-looking statements relating to future events or the future financial performance of the Company. Such forward-looking statements are within the meaning of that term in Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Such statements may include, but not be limited to, projections of revenues, income or loss, capital expenditures, acquisitions, plans for growth and future operations, financing needs or plans or intentions relating to acquisitions by the Company, as well as assumptions relating to the foregoing. Forward-looking statements are inherently subject to risks and uncertainties, some of which cannot be predicted or quantified. Future events and actual results could differ materially from those set forth in, contemplated by or underlying the forward-looking statements.

Effective December 31, 1997 the Company changed its fiscal year for financial reporting purposes from a March 31 year-end to a December 31 year-end. Throughout this report, the term 1997 transition period relates to the nine-month period ended December 31, 1997. The terms fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996 refer to the fiscal years ended March 31, 1997 and March 31, 1996, respectively. Other references to years are to calendar years, unless specifically noted otherwise.

#### GENERAL

U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc. (the "Company") provides transportation and logistics services in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The Company is one of the ten largest truckload carriers in the United States. The Company is a leader in the adoption of proven new technologies as a means of reducing costs and providing better service to its customers.

The Company has two operating subsidiaries, U.S. Xpress, Inc. ("U.S. Xpress") and CSI/Crown, Inc. ("CSI/Crown"). U.S. Xpress, the Company's largest subsidiary, accounted for 83% of the Company's 1997 transition period revenues. U.S. Xpress provides three principal services: i) time-definite and expedited services with medium and long lengths of haul of 800 to 3,000 miles; ii) time-definite and expedited regional services with lengths of haul of 100 to 1,200 miles in the Western, Southeastern, Midwestern and Eastern regions of the United States; and iii) expedited truckload transportation brokerage services that primarily serve the air freight industry.

CSI/Crown's target market is the floorcovering industry. CSI/Crown consolidates floorcovering products into truckload quantities, arranges truckload transportation to company-owned distribution centers and third-party agent facilities throughout the United States and Canada for local delivery to floorcovering distributors, retailers and contractors. In addition, CSI/Crown provides warehousing facilities and floorcovering cutting services, and sells floorcovering installation supplies, most of which are sold bearing the company's private-label "Installer's Choice" brand.

The Company's mission is to provide high levels of service to customers utilizing proven technologies and skilled people. The Company's operating and growth strategy is focused on taking advantage of opportunities and evolving trends in the transportation industry. These strategies include:

1) Position the Company as a premier high-service provider. The Company's services have attracted customers across many industries, particularly those that operate just-in-time manufacturing and distribution systems. Over the last three years, the Company's revenues have grown at a 24% compound annual rate. A large portion of the Company's growth has been attributable to providing services that are differentiated from other truckload carriers. The Company was one of the first in the industry to establish time-definite pickups and deliveries as a standard for service quality. Time-definite service is a critical element in efficient supply chain and distribution systems management. In addition, the Company is one of the few truckload carriers to provide expedited service throughout the continental United States and in parts of Canada and Mexico. This is particularly important to shippers that operate multiple, geographically-separated facilities. The Company has consistently utilized proven new technologies that provide value to customers, such as the Xpress Connect Internet-based communication system that enables the Company's customers to trace freight, tender orders for freight, exchange invoice information, obtain imaged proofs of delivery and perform other functions through the Internet.

2) Expand core carrier relationships with shippers. Through its service capabilities, the Company is positioned to act as a core carrier and/or dedicated service provider to major shippers. The Company provides longhaul and regional truckload services, expedited and time-definite service, dedicated fleet capabilities and services to third-party logistics providers. In seeking core carrier relationships, the Company emphasizes its commitment to flexibility, responsiveness, analytical planning and information systems.

Many shippers are reducing the number of carriers they use. This is resulting in opportunities in which large and successful carriers with a range of capabilities, like the Company, have an advantage in competing for the reduced number of core carrier positions.

The Company's top 50 customers, most of which have designated the Company as a core carrier, include Federal Express, Carrier, Amana, Hewlett Packard, DuPont, Compaq and Armstrong.

3) Position the Company as a driver-friendly employer. The labor market for qualified professional truck drivers is extremely competitive, providing a competitive advantage to driver-friendly employers like the Company. The Company focuses significant resources and attention on the successful recruiting, hiring, training and retention of qualified professional solo and team drivers. In the 1997 transition period, the Company increased its fleet size 26% through internal growth and the acquisition of truckload carrier JTI, Inc. to 2,839 tractors at year-end, a 26.4% increase over March 31, 1997. The Company was able to hire sufficient numbers of drivers to operate the larger fleet.

Management believes that its success in hiring and retaining qualified solo and team drivers is due to its high-quality equipment; high utilization of equipment which translates into high miles and take-home pay for drivers; driver-friendly freight that does not require drivers to load or unload; flexible work schedules that enable some drivers to work schedules that accommodate their personal obligations and lifestyles; and creative recruiting strategies that recognize the changing demographics of the American work force and seek to expand the diversity of the driver force. Management also believes that it is critical that the Company remain in the upper tier of carriers for total driver compensation in order to continue to attract and retain experienced drivers.

An important aspect of driver retention is driver managers. Each Company driver is assigned a driver manager who is responsible for all aspects of driver satisfaction: miles, home time and helping drivers resolve work-related issues. Driver managers' performance is evaluated based on equipment utilization, driver turnover, driver miles and driver safety performance. The driver managers communicate with drivers daily through the satellite communications system and by telephone when personal communication is warranted. Typical matters in which assistance is provided include payroll issues and scheduling a driver's load so that he or she can return home. The Company recognizes that the first 90 days of employment is a critical retention and safety period for new drivers. New drivers are assigned to specific driver managers who are specially trained to assist new drivers. Each driver manager is responsible for approximately 45 trucks.

Management believes the kind of freight the Company typically handles is a significant factor in driver retention. Although drivers do occasionally load and unload freight, the Company focuses much of its marketing efforts on customers with freight which is "driver-friendly" in that it requires minimal or no loading or unloading by drivers. The Company also is increasingly extending this driver-friendly concept to customers that do not keep drivers waiting for extensive periods of time while trailers are loaded and those whose employees, usually loading dock personnel, treat the Company's drivers as professionals.

In 1997, the competition for professional drivers intensified, as several competing carriers increased the rates at which drivers are paid for each mile driven. Some carriers reported that they increased wages by more than ten percent. The Company increased driver mileage pay in July 1997 by two to six percent, based on drivers' seniority with the Company. The Company plans to increase its fleet size in 1998 through internal growth and strategic acquisitions. Truckload carrier Victory Express, Inc. was acquired in early 1998. Continuing success in recruiting, hiring, training and retaining sufficient drivers to staff the increasingly larger fleet is critical to the Company achieving its financial and growth objectives.

4) Emphasize relationships with logistics providers. Many major manufacturers and distributors are increasingly focusing on their core competencies and outsourcing some or all of their logistics and transportation requirements to logistics firms. Some shippers recognize significant cost savings and improved performance by outsourcing transportation requirements and focusing their resources on their core businesses. Logistics providers typically manage transportation purchasing, coordination and freight allocation for their customers. This trend is providing

opportunities for the Company to establish working relationships with important logistics suppliers, and thereby obtain significant new customer accounts. Industry analysts have estimated that about 5% of freight in the U.S. is being managed by logistics providers, and this share is expected to grow to 10% by the year 2000. A small number of logistics providers have jumped to the forefront of this young industry and have obtained significant business volumes from large shippers.

The Company has established relationships with three of the leading logistics suppliers -- J.B. Hunt Logistics, Menlo Logistics and Ryder Integrated Logistics. These relationships have resulted in significant business opportunities to serve large shippers whose logistics are managed by these third-party logistics firms. For example, the Company now serves four large shippers represented by J.B. Hunt Logistics. The Company's overall performance in serving J.B. Hunt Logistics and its customers -- as measured by rates, on-time performance and information technology capability -- resulted in the Company's selection as J.B. Hunt Logistics' "Carrier of the Year" for 1997. Management believes that as it continues to demonstrate its capabilities and performs to the demanding requirements of logistics providers, it can earn additional business opportunities quality logistics providers.

5) Continue to pursue attractive acquisition opportunities. The trucking industry is consolidating. Many carriers are experiencing financial and competitive pressures that are increasingly making it difficult for them to successfully compete in the truckload industry. This is resulting in attractive acquisition opportunities for well-capitalized carriers like the Company. The Company has grown significantly through ten strategic acquisitions in the 1990s. U.S. Xpress now includes the operations of six companies acquired in the 1990s - Southwest Motor Freight, Hall Systems, National Freight Systems, Michael Lima Transportation, JTI, Inc., and Victory Express, Inc. CSI/Crown includes the operations of four companies acquired in the 1990s -- Crown Transport Systems, Great Southern Xpress, CSI/Reeves and Rosedale Transport.

The acquisition of the Midwest and East Coast floorcovering and logistics operations of Rosedale Transport, Inc. occurred in April 1997. The acquisition of JTI, Inc., a Midwest regional truckload carrier, was made in May 1997.

Effective January 29, 1998, the Company acquired Victory Express, Inc., a non-union truckload carrier based in Medway, Ohio, for \$51 million in cash and assumption of approximately \$2 million in debt. Prior to the acquisition, Victory had annual revenues of approximately \$65 million. Victory Express serves customers located primarily in the Midwest and on the Eastern seaboard. Other areas of the country served by Victory Express include Georgia, Texas and California. Victory Express employs approximately 790 persons, including approximately 640 drivers and driver trainees.

Through this acquisition, management expects the Company to significantly expand its regional capabilities in the Midwest and extend our regional service capabilities to the East Coast. Victory Express' customer base is largely centered in automotive, paper, retail and air freight markets. In addition, U.S. Xpress continues to be presented with opportunities for additional business from its customers in the Midwest. Management expects that Victory Express' capacity will enable the Company to better capture these opportunities.

Management believes that market and financial forces will continue to create attractive acquisition opportunities.

## **SERVICES**

### **TIME DEFINITE SERVICE**

The Company's principal service specialty is time-definite service, which is the pickup and delivery of freight to prescribed schedules over distances ranging from 200 to 3,000 miles. Time-definite transportation requires pickups and deliveries to be performed to exact appointment times or within a specified number of minutes. This service is a key point of differentiation from many other trucking companies, which typically provide service only within time "windows" ranging from a few hours to a few days. Time-definite service is particularly important to the Company's customers that operate just-in-time manufacturing, distribution and retail inventory systems and to customers in the air freight industry.

### **EXPEDITED SERVICE**

The Company's expedited service consists of the pick up and delivery of freight on prescribed schedules at transit times competitive to deferred air freight service. The Company is able to meet these transit times through the use of team drivers or relays at much lower cost than deferred air freight. In the 1997 transition period, revenue from expedited services was \$110.2 million, an increase of 16% from the same period in 1996. Customers in the air freight

industry accounted for 27% of expedited services revenue, with the remainder provided by manufacturers, distributors, retailers, freight forwarders and consolidators. Examples of this service are as follows:

Origin	Destination	Miles	TRANSIT Times (in hours)
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Charlotte, NC	Los Angeles, CA	2,381	53
Atlanta, GA	San Francisco, CA	2,482	55
Seattle, WA	Miami, FL	3,263	73
Dallas, TX	Chicago, IL	923	20
Newark, NJ	Columbus, OH	527	12

## REGIONAL SERVICE

About 70% of the freight transported in the U.S. moves over distances of less than 1,000 miles. In addition, the average length of haul of shipments is shrinking as manufacturers and distributors increasingly bring the various elements of their supply and distribution chains into closer geographical proximity to each other. These trends lead shippers to use carriers, like the Company, that can provide short-haul, medium-haul and long-haul services in key regions of the U.S. The ability to provide regional service is an important factor to the Company obtaining certain core carrier accounts.

In the 1997 transition period, revenue from regional services (freight originating and delivering in defined regional areas) totalled \$74.7 million, an increase of 38% from the same period of 1996. Over 48% of regional revenues were derived from the Southeast region. The Western region accounted for 40% and the Midwestern region accounted for 12%. The January 1998 acquisition of Victory Express will expand the Company's regional service capacity in the Midwest.

## DEDICATED SERVICES

Some shippers are eliminating or reducing the size of their private fleets, providing increased opportunities for carriers, like the Company, to provide dedicated services in which specific trucks and drivers are assigned to specific customer accounts. Approximately 300 tractors at U.S. Xpress are dedicated to specific customers or geographic lanes. In addition, through the acquisition of Victory Express in early 1998, two significant dedicated accounts were obtained. These two accounts together represent nearly 50% of Victory Express' revenues prior to its acquisition by the Company. Through dedicated services, customers obtain a higher degree of assurance of available capacity to meet their requirements. U.S. Xpress benefits by receiving increased business volume from key customers, by improving planning of equipment requirements and by enhancing the safety of its drivers who travel the same lanes repeatedly. Drivers benefit through enhanced predictability of their schedules, reduced downtime between loads and more predictability of their off-duty time.

CSI/Crown expanded its dedicated service offerings in 1997 by assigning certain equipment to specific customers and promoting the customers' brand on the equipment. In this way, the customer obtains the benefits of assured capacity and brand promotion, without incurring the management costs and inherent inefficiencies of operating a private fleet. CSI/Crown benefits by being assured consistent volume for its dedicated equipment and drivers.

## LOGISTICS SERVICES

U.S. Xpress provides logistics services, principally expedited truckload services, utilizing company equipment and a network of contract carriers. Most of the customers for these services are airlines, air freight forwarders and customs brokers involved in the air freight industry. Customers are identified and acquired through the Company's own sales efforts and through a network of sales agents. The contract carrier network also provides supplementary capacity to U.S. Xpress customers when available opportunities do not fit U.S. Xpress' targeted market segments or when U.S. Xpress equipment is not available.

## FLOORCOVERING LOGISTICS

CSI/Crown is the leading nationwide provider of logistics services for the floorcovering industry. CSI/Crown picks up floorcovering products from manufacturers; consolidates shipments into truckloads bound for specific destinations;

contracts with U.S. Xpress and other truckload carriers to deliver the products to CSI/Crown service centers or to contract agents and delivery services; and delivers the products to floorcovering distributors and retailers in all 50 states, Canada and Mexico. In addition, CSI/Crown provides warehouse facilities and cutting services and sells floorcovering installation supplies.

CSI/Crown contracts with several truckload carriers, including U.S. Xpress, to deliver floorcovering products from North Georgia, where many floorcovering manufacturers are located, to CSI/Crown and agent service centers in the U.S. and Canada. Revenue from floorcovering logistics in the 1997 transition period was \$57.6 million, an increase of 12.7% from the same period in 1996. At December 31, 1997, CSI/Crown operated 25 distribution centers and contracted with others to provide distribution services at 33 other locations. Subsequent to December 31, 1997, four company-operated distribution centers were transferred to third party agents.

## **MARKETING AND CUSTOMERS**

Marketing personnel target customers for each of the Company's six major services. The Company's services are marketed on the basis of the Company's commitment to high levels of service, flexibility, responsiveness, analytical planning and information technology management. The Company's marketing department is primarily responsible for identifying new business prospects and implementing marketing programs to obtain and retain customer accounts. The marketing staff also is responsible for offering the Company's logistics capabilities to existing and new customers and to third party logistics providers.

Mr. Quinn, the Company's Co-Chairman, and Mr. Lusk, the Executive Vice President of Marketing, are directly involved in marketing the Company's services at the national account level and supporting local sales activities. In addition, the Company employs 19 full-time marketing representatives, who are geographically dispersed.

The Company's top 50 customers, most of which have designated the Company as a core carrier, accounted for approximately 46% of revenues in 1997. During 1997, no single customer accounted for more than 6.5% of the Company's revenue.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

The Company utilizes proven new technologies that yield both competitive service advantages and the ability to more profitably serve its niche markets. The Company has developed a computerized information system that is integrated with the QUALCOMM Omnitrac satellite communication system ("the QUALCOMM system") to enhance customer service and equipment utilization. The Company's Electronic Data Interchange ("EDI") capabilities provide customers with an efficient means of tracing freight and performing several administrative functions. In November, 1996, the Company introduced its proprietary Internet-based OXpress ConnectO system which enables customers to trace freight, tender loads and exchange invoice information via the Internet. Management believes that this system is a base from which it will provide enhanced customer service, and ultimately provide direct connectivity between customers and drivers via the Internet.

The Company is a leader in the innovation of computer information systems that are integrated with the QUALCOMM system. Management believes that proven technologies provide both competitive service advantages and the ability to more profitably serve its niche markets.

## **OPERATING SYSTEMS**

Management believes that the Company's information systems are one of its principal competitive advantages. These systems integrate operations systems and the principal back-office functions of payroll, billing, fuel and accounting with the QUALCOMM system.

## **SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS**

The QUALCOMM system was first utilized by the Company in 1990. The QUALCOMM system simplifies the location of equipment and permits timely and efficient communication of critical operating data, such as shipment orders, loading instructions, routing, fuel, taxes paid, mileage operated, payroll, safety, traffic and maintenance information. For example, load planners assign loads by entering the required information into the system. Drivers then access the previously-planned load from the system and acquire all the necessary customer, order and routing information through their onboard display unit, thus eliminating waiting time and inefficient dependence on truck stop telephones. Management estimates that carriers without satellite communications typically lose one hour or more of productive time per driver per day waiting for telephones. The QUALCOMM system permits transmission of load

assignments directly to the onboard display unit and will signal a driver when an assignment is available so that he or she may sleep in the tractor pending an assignment. In addition, through the QUALCOMM system, drivers have direct access to the Company's IBM AS/400 computer. This capability enables the driver to access information from operations and payroll systems, such as requesting and receiving cash advances on the road.

## **LOAD PLANNING/DISPATCH**

The Company operates the QUALCOMM Decision Support System ("QDSS"), a dispatch optimization software system. This software package provides the capability to efficiently allocate equipment and drivers to available loads. QDSS maximizes utilization of the Company's equipment and contributes to improved customer and driver satisfaction. Load planners convert customer orders into daily pre-planned freight dispatches. Driver managers then send instructions to drivers via the QUALCOMM system. Drivers access the order when they are ready for the next load assignment. Drivers can obtain shipment orders, pickup and delivery instructions, customer location and routing information through the onboard computer. Through QDSS, the Company seeks to identify potential problems of too much or too little freight in a particular geographic region. The Company seeks additional freight in the affected area or through its logistics group, seeks alternative carriers to handle overflow loads.

## **ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE**

The Company's automated administrative (e.g. billing, fuel tax, payroll) and operating systems enable dial-up tracing and full EDI of administrative and shipment status information between the Company and its customers. This system provides significant operating advantages to U.S. Xpress and its customers, including real-time information flow, reduction or elimination of paperwork, error-free transcription and reductions in clerical personnel. EDI allows the Company to exchange data with its customers in a variety of formats, depending on individual customer's capabilities, which can significantly enhance quality control, customer service and customer efficiency.

## **XPRESS CONNECT(TM)**

The Company's Xpress Connect(TM) system is an Internet-based system, located at [www.USXpress.com](http://www.USXpress.com), that makes it easy for shippers to track freight, tender loads and communicate with the Company via Internet e-mail. The system, which is a featured part of the Company's World Wide Web site, is designed to assist shippers in better managing their transportation shipments by providing up-to-date information on the location and status of active shipments, as well as historical information on completed shipments. The Company believes that Xpress Connect is the first World Wide Web application of its type that permits a customer to track shipments without prior knowledge of shipment or order numbers. Xpress Connect(TM) is customer-specific and password protected to guarantee the security of proprietary information. The system is being continually improved and upgraded, and in fiscal 1998, management expects to add enhancements that provide: 1) customers the ability to obtain proofs of delivery from the Company's document imaging system; 2) an on-line freight rating system; and 3) automatic notifications to customers' pagers of expected delays in transit.

Management believes that Xpress Connect(TM) provides a competitive advantage in the truckload and floorcovering logistics industries, because shippers have greater capabilities and ease of use at lower costs than are provided through other carriers' EDI and Internet-based systems.

## **EATON VORAD**

Eaton Vorad collision avoidance systems are specified equipment on Century Class tractors used by U.S. Xpress. These radar-based systems are designed to detect traffic ahead and to the side of trucks, and to provide drivers with additional response time, resulting in a safer vehicle for drivers and the motoring public. At December 31, 1997 the Company had more than 1,700 such systems in operation.

## **TRANSIT TECHNOLOGIES**

The Pre-Pass(TM) technology enables a tractor to stop at one weigh station and receive clearance for travel on participating highways. After the truck conducts an initial visit to a weigh station, information regarding the truck and its contents are downloaded onto a transponder located on the tractor. Thereafter, a sensor located along the highway reads the information contained in the transponder and allows the truck and its contents to be electronically cleared without the delays associated with multiple weigh station visits. The Company participated in beta tests for these technologies



and equipped a majority of its tractors with these systems in 1997. The Company has begun to implement a similar technology to expedite movement through toll plazas. These technologies enhance fuel economy, improve equipment utilization, improve transit times and reduce accidents.

## **DOCUMENT IMAGING**

The Company has installed an optical character recognition system that scans documents such as bills of lading, driver logs and fuel receipts onto optical disks or other storage media. This system has reduced clerical and management time required to enter and retrieve information, while enhancing the availability and increasing the utilization of data by customers.

## **YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE**

Some computer systems that use two digits to indicate a year will not be able to process data properly for the year 2000. The Company has assessed the ability of its computer software and operating systems to function in the year 2000 and beyond. Systems in use by the Company in operations, accounting and purchasing are year 2000 compliant.

Testing of all U.S. Xpress systems for year 2000 compliance is scheduled for July 1998. Systems in use at CSI/Crown are presently 50% compliant with year 2000 requirements. Programming to make all CSI/Crown systems year 2000 compliant is expected to be completed by December 1998. Testing of all CSI/Crown systems is scheduled for March 1999.

A load optimization system purchased from Sabre Group is year 2000 compliant. A new version of the Q-Tracks satellite communication system that is year 2000 compliant has been purchased from Qualcomm, Inc. This system is being installed and is expected to be operational in June 1998. The Company does not currently have any information concerning the year 2000 compliance status of its other suppliers and customers. In the event that any of the Company's significant suppliers or customers do not successfully and timely achieve year 2000 compliance, the Company's business or operations could be adversely affected. The Company does not expect the costs of achieving year 2000 compliance to be material.

## **EQUIPMENT**

The Company determines the specifications of equipment purchases based on such factors as vehicle and component quality, warranty service, driver preferences, new vehicle prices and the likely resale market. Because the fleet is standardized and has warranty maintenance agreements with original equipment suppliers, the Company has minimized parts inventories and maintenance costs. The Company has negotiated attractive repurchase commitments from its primary equipment vendors for disposal of used equipment in 1998. These agreements reduce the Company's risks related to equipment disposal values.

## **TRACTORS**

In the early 1990s, the Company's management and drivers worked with the Company's principal tractor supplier, Freightliner, to design improvements in its conventional tractors, such as more spacious and functional sleeper compartments and improved aerodynamics. In 1996, the Company was among the first to purchase the new Freightliner Century Class tractors, which provide superior levels of operating safety, fuel efficiency, information management capabilities and driver comforts. At December 31, 1997, 1,730 Century Class tractors were operating in the Company's fleet.

The Company was among the first to use Detroit Diesel 60 Series engines, which provide significant performance improvements and maintenance cost reductions over non-electronic engines. The Company's engines are designed with enough power to enable the tractor to stay with the flow of traffic on most upgrades, which enhances safety and minimizes driver frustration. In addition, they contain electronic speed controls. Many of the Company's tractors are also equipped with anti-lock braking systems for improved safety.

Tractors are typically replaced every 36 to 48 months, generally well in advance of the need for major engine overhauls. This schedule can be accelerated or delayed based on resale values in the used truck market and the differential between those values and new truck prices. The Company maintains third party relationships that enable it to retail, rather than wholesale, a large percentage of used equipment. Management believes that this practice has resulted in significant gains through the sale of used trucks over what could have been obtained from trade-in values offered by the manufacturer.

## **TRAILERS**

The Company's dry van trailers have cubic capacity that is among the largest in the industry. In 1997, the Company began purchasing composite plate trailers from Wabash National Corporation that are more durable, have greater cubic capacity and stiffer sidewalls, and do not fracture as easily as conventional aluminum trailers. At December 31, 1997, the Company's fleet of 5,875 trailers included approximately 1,100 Wabash composite plate trailers.

## **COMPETITION**

The transportation services business is extremely competitive. The Company competes primarily with other truckload carriers and, particularly in the longer haul markets, with intermodal transportation, railroads and providers of deferred air-freight service. Competition from railroads and intermodal transportation likely would increase if state or federal highway fuel taxes were increased without a corresponding increase in taxes imposed on fuel used by railroads.

Generally, competition for the freight transported by the Company is based more on service and efficiency than on freight rates. However, historically, increased competition has created downward pressure on the truckload industry's pricing structure. Prolonged weakness in freight markets or downward pressure on freight rates could adversely affect the Company's results of operations or financial condition. Some competitors have greater financial resources, operate more equipment and transport more freight than the Company.

## **REGULATION**

The Company is a motor carrier that is subject to safety rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Transportation and various laws and regulations enforced by state agencies. These regulatory authorities have broad powers, generally governing activities such as authority to engage in motor carrier operations, accounting systems, certain mergers, consolidations, acquisitions and periodic financial reporting. Subject to federal, state and provincial regulatory authorities, the Company may transport most types of freight to and from any point in the United States, Mexico and certain Canadian provinces over any route selected by the Company. The trucking industry is subject to possible regulatory and legislative changes (such as increasingly stringent environmental regulations or limits on vehicle weight and size) that may affect the economics of the industry by requiring changes in operating practices or by affecting the cost of providing truckload services.

The Company has underground storage tanks for diesel fuel in use at terminals in Birmingham, Alabama; Tunnel Hill, Georgia; Lincoln, Nebraska; Medway, Ohio; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Chattanooga, Tennessee. As a result, the Company is subject to regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") in 1988 governing the design, construction and operation of underground fuel storage tanks from installation to closure. For underground fuel storage tanks in existence at the time the regulations were promulgated in 1988, which include tanks at the terminals in Chattanooga and Medway, the regulations require that tanks be upgraded to meet specified standards concerning corrosion protection, spill or overfill protection and release detection on a phased timetable which began in 1989 and ends in 1998. The Company believes all of its tanks are in compliance with EPA regulations.

## **SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Company is committed to safe driving. The Company regularly communicates with drivers to promote safety and to instill safe work habits through Company media, safety review sessions and ethics and responsibility training. These programs reinforce the importance of driving safely, abiding by all laws and regulations such as speed limits and driving hours, performing regular equipment inspections and acting as good citizens on the road. The Company's accident review committee meets regularly to review any new accidents, take appropriate action related to drivers, examine accident trends and implement changes in procedures or communications to address any safety issues.

Management's emphasis on safety also is demonstrated through its equipment specifications, such as anti-lock brakes, electronic engines, special mirrors, conspicuity tape and the implementation of Eaton Vorad collision avoidance systems on all Freightliner Century Class tractors. The Eaton Vorad system is designed to provide drivers with visible and audible warnings when other vehicles are beside them and when vehicles ahead are traveling at slower speeds than the truck. The system provides drivers with additional response time to prevent accidents.

The Company requires prospective drivers to meet higher qualification standards than those required by the DOT. The DOT requires the Company's drivers to obtain national commercial driver's licenses pursuant to the regulations promulgated by the DOT. The DOT also requires that the employer implement a drug-testing program in accordance with DOT regulations. The Company's program includes pre-employment, random, reasonable cause, post-accident and post-injury drug testing.

Interstate motor carrier operations are subject to safety requirements prescribed by the DOT. Such matters as equipment weight and dimensions are also subject to federal and state regulations. DOT evaluates carriers and provides safety fitness ratings based on conformance with requirements and accident frequency. U.S. Xpress and

CSI/Crown each have satisfactory safety fitness ratings. Victory Express, which was acquired by the Company in early 1998, also has a satisfactory safety fitness rating.

The Company secures appropriate insurance coverage at cost-effective rates. The primary claims arising in the Company's business consist of cargo loss and damage and auto liability (personal injury and property damage). The Company currently purchases primary and excess coverage for these types of claims in levels which management believes are sufficient to adequately protect the Company from significant claims. The Company also maintains primary and excess coverage for employee medical expenses and hospitalization, damage to physical properties and equipment damage resulting from collisions or other losses.

## **PERSONNEL**

The Company considers relations with its employees, all of whom are non-union, to be good. At December 31, 1997, the Company and its subsidiaries employed 5,315 persons. A petition filed July 23, 1997 by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 528, pursuant to Section 9 of the Labor Management Relations Act and seeking collective bargaining rights with respect to a group of approximately 140 employees at the CSI/Crown facility in Tunnel Hill, Georgia has been withdrawn by the Teamsters without election. All unfair labor practice charges filed by the union in connection with the petition for recognition have been settled.

On January 1, 1997, the Company entered into an arrangement with a third party in which the Company outsources payroll and benefits administration, unemployment insurance and workers' compensation. Under this arrangement, the Company pays the third party a fixed amount per employee. The Company believes that this arrangement enables it to achieve cost savings on payroll administration, personnel benefits and insurance premiums.

## **DRIVERS**

At December 31, 1997, the Company employed 3,970 drivers. Employment turnover of over-the-road drivers is a significant industry-wide problem. Recruiting, training and retention of qualified drivers is essential to support the Company's continued growth. Management believes that one of the key elements to retaining professional drivers is providing competitive compensation. Most companies in the truckload industry pay drivers based on the miles that they drive and provide various additional bonuses and incentives. Management believes that drivers' primary interest in compensation is their take-home pay rather than their base mileage pay. While other carriers may offer marginally higher mileage pay, management believes that the Company's drivers' compensation is comparable to those of other carriers because the Company's high equipment utilization maximizes driver productivity, miles driven and pay.

To maintain high equipment utilization, particularly during periods of rapid additions of equipment to the fleet and periods of soft freight demand, the Company has implemented a number of ongoing initiatives to retain existing drivers and recruit new ones, such as handling driver-friendly freight, adopting an attractive compensation and benefits package, providing equipment with desirable driver amenities and providing a Company-wide culture of support for drivers' needs.

## **DRIVER RECRUITING**

Management believes that meeting drivers' reasonable expectations is critical to driver satisfaction and retention. Driver recruiters are trained to provide candidates with a realistic view of work requirements and the lifestyles required of a long-haul, over-the-road driver. The Company's recruiting efforts include targeted advertising, recruitment by the Company drivers and other methods. Detailed statistics are continually maintained and evaluated to determine the effectiveness of recruiting efforts. The Company compensates its drivers for successful recruiting efforts and periodically holds special incentive contests to encourage drivers to assist with recruiting.

The Company also maintains a "quick response" system that investigates prospective drivers' credentials and driving histories and in most instances approves drivers for hiring within one business day of application. Management believes that this system is critical to hiring quality drivers who are making a job change and may have applied to several prospective employers at the same time. New driver candidates are carefully screened on the basis of prior driving and safety records. In accordance with DOT requirements, the Company operates a drug-free workplace. Accordingly, all drivers are required to submit to pre-employment, random, reasonable cause, post-accident and post-injury drug testing.

## **DRIVER TRAINING**

The Company works closely with a community college in Oklahoma to recruit and train prospective drivers. All new drivers, regardless of experience, are trained under strict guidelines. A two-day orientation program provides drivers with information about the Company, its equipment and its expectations. The orientation program also stresses safety instruction and proper operation of the tractors and trailers used by the Company. New drivers with less over-the-road experience are placed in the Company's driver training program and teamed with driver trainers to gain additional over-the-road experience. Driver trainers are carefully selected based on driving and safety records and receive additional instruction prior to being assigned to the driver training program. The Company has found that drivers completing this driver training program tend to have better safety and retention records.

Through the acquisition of Victory Express in January 1998, the Company acquired a driver training school operated by Victory Express at its facility in Medway, Ohio. At the time of the acquisition, approximately 120 students were enrolled. Management believes that continued effective operation of this driver training school will provide the Company with an additional source of new drivers.

## **DRIVER COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

The Company's compensation and benefits package has been structured to attract and retain quality drivers. Company drivers are compensated primarily on the basis of miles driven, with base pay per mile increasing with a driver's length of employment. Because the Company has an average length of haul that is longer than most truckload carriers, drivers accumulate more miles and thus earn above average pay. Drivers also can earn additional mileage pay through safety and mileage incentive bonuses. Based on recent surveys performed by the Company with respect to compensation paid by competitors, management believes the Company's driver compensation ranks among the highest in the truckload industry. Employee benefits include paid holidays and vacations, health insurance, an Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and a 401(k) retirement plan in which the Company matches 50% of employee contributions, up to six percent of compensation.

## **DRIVER AMENITIES**

The Company's late-model, conventional tractors are designed for driver comfort and safety. Standard equipment includes double sleeper bunks, extra large cabs, air-ride suspensions and additional storage for personal items. The Company also has developed specific satellite communications applications that enable drivers to remain in touch with their families, receive information about pay and expense advances, directions to customer locations, weather updates and load assignments. The Company also provides pre-paid telephone calling cards that contain 30 minutes of free calling time per month to drivers. Drivers have the ability to add time to the cards by charging a personal credit card or through payroll deduction. In 1996 the Company began testing a system in which drivers could send and receive electronic mail via the Internet using their satellite communications system. The costs of e-mail messaging are paid by drivers through their telephone calling cards. In 1996, the Company began purchasing Freightliner Century Class tractors, which set a new industry standard for efficiency and driver amenities.

## **ITEM 2. PROPERTIES**

All of the Company's offices and terminals are leased. The Company's headquarters are located in two leased buildings in Chattanooga, Tennessee. U.S. Xpress is also based in Chattanooga. At year-end 1997, U.S. Xpress operated terminal facilities in these locations: Birmingham, Alabama; Fontana and Sacramento, California; Tunnel Hill, Georgia; Boise, Idaho; Lincoln, Nebraska; Hillside, New Jersey; Vandalia, Ohio; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; N. Sioux City, South Dakota; Houston and Tyler, Texas; and Green Bay, Wisconsin. Seven of these terminals include maintenance facilities. Several terminals include driver lounges and customer service functions for local pickups and deliveries. Effective January 29, 1998, the Company acquired Victory Express, Inc., which operates a terminal, maintenance facility, and driver training school in Medway, Ohio. In conjunction with the acquisition, the Vandalia, Ohio facility was closed in February 1998 and its operations were merged into the Medway facility.

CSI/Crown is based in Tunnel Hill, Georgia, approximately 25 miles from Chattanooga location. The Tunnel Hill facility includes a 101-door loading dock facility in which floorcovering shipments from multiple manufacturers are consolidated into truckloads for delivery to company-owned and agent-operated distribution service centers shipments. At year-end 1997, CSI/Crown operated 25 distribution service centers, all of which were leased properties.

In late 1997, site preparation construction began for a new headquarters facility in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Company expects construction of the facility to be completed in late 1998 or early 1999.

## **ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The Company is party to various legal proceedings arising in the normal course of its business. Management does not believe that the outcome of any of these proceedings will have a material adverse effect on the Company.

## **ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS**

During the quarter ended December 31, 1997, no matters were submitted to a vote of security holders.

## PART II

### ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANT'S COMMON EQUITY AND RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS

COMMON STOCK AND STOCKHOLDER DATA The Company's Class A Common Stock is traded on the NASDAQ National Market System under the symbol XPRSA. At March 13, 1998, there were 149 registered stockholders and an estimated 1,650 beneficial owners. At March 13, 1998 there were 12,006,440 shares of Class A Common Stock outstanding and 3,040,262 shares of Class B Common Stock outstanding. Listed below is the trading activity for each quarter in the last two fiscal years:

Quarter Ending	High	Low	Average Daily Volume
June 30, 1996	8.50	6.625	8,998
September 30, 1996	9.75	5.75	19,869
December 31, 1996	16.125	8.50	36,735
March 31, 1997	17.75	12.25	22,081
June 30, 1997	20.50	17.125	34,115
September 30, 1997	20.75	19.00	77,765
December 31, 1997	24.625	21.00	63,526

### DIVIDENDS

The Company does not pay cash dividends and intends to continue to retain earnings to finance growth of the Company.

### ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

The annual meeting of stockholders will be held at 2:00 p.m. EDT on May 12, 1998 at the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

### STOCKHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

Company news may be obtained through the Company's Internet web site at [www.usxpress.com](http://www.usxpress.com) and through most news and financial services. A complete investor package, which includes the Company's annual report filed on Form 10-K, most recent 10-Q and general information about the Company, may also be requested through the web site, or by contacting the Company's investor relations office.

### STOCKHOLDER RECORDS

Registered stockholders with questions concerning statements, changes of address, stock transfers or replacement of stock certificates should contact the Company's stock transfer agent and registrar:

BankBoston,NA  
c/o Boston Equiserve LP  
Shareholder Services  
Mail Stop 45-02-64  
P.O. Box 8040  
Boston, MA 02266-8040  
(781)575-3001

**ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA**  
(In thousands, except per share and operating data)

	NINE MONTHS ENDED December 31,		YEAR ENDED March 31,			
	1997 /(4)/	1996	1997	1996	1995	1994
Income Statement Data/(1)/						
Operating revenue:						
U.S. Xpress	\$290,800	\$228,484	\$307,928	\$261,533	\$236,552	\$197,351
CSI/Crown	57,645	51,158	65,845	47,817	23,915	24,001
Intercompany	(6,173)	(8,386)	(10,954)	(9,653)	(6,136)	(5,948)
Consolidated	\$342,272	\$271,256	\$362,819	\$299,697	\$254,331	\$215,404
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Income from operations	\$ 26,126	\$ 14,736	\$ 19,716	\$ 5,251	\$ 18,159	\$ 14,095
Income before taxes	\$ 21,983	\$ 10,627	\$ 14,236	\$ 75	\$ 13,557	\$ 9,714
Net income	\$ 13,191	\$ 5,708	\$ 7,878	\$ 94	\$ 8,263	\$ 6,042
Earnings per share - basic	\$ .98	\$ .47	\$ .65	\$ .01	\$ .77	\$ .63
Weighted average number of shares outstanding - basic	13,467	12,081	12,082	12,003	10,705	9,665
Earnings per share - diluted	\$ .97	\$ .47	\$ .65	\$ .01	\$ .76	\$ .63
Weighted average number of shares outstanding - diluted	13,582	12,151	12,168	12,076	10,806	9,665
Truckload Operating Data/(2)/						
Total revenue miles (in thousands)	241,541	194,324	261,596	222,496	204,804	180,609
Tractor miles (in thousands)	265,102	209,935	282,985	239,599	216,581	190,098
Tractors at end of period	2,839	2,214	2,246	1,975	1,721	1,504
Average number of tractors	2,615	2,091	2,111	1,848	1,613	1,414
Trailers at end of period	5,875	5,331	5,520	4,396	3,643	2,394
Total loads	239,730	187,986	254,214	185,565	142,742	123,261
Average revenue per mile	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.16	\$ 1.15	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.14	\$ 1.09
Average revenue per tractor per week	\$ 2,734	\$ 2,794	\$ 2,761	\$ 2,646	\$ 2,807	\$ 2,796
BALANCE SHEET DATA						
Working capital	\$ 44,813	\$ 23,097	\$ 33,829	\$ 19,606	\$ 10,786	\$ 2,636
Total assets	233,777	183,479	178,084	177,821	146,070	103,385
Long-term debt, net of current maturities	52,120	65,509	59,318	61,789	46,157	49,871
Stockholders' equity/(3)/	128,493	60,990	63,162	55,086	54,082	13,436

/(1)/ Data for U.S. Xpress includes data for all truckload operations. Data for CSI/Crown includes data for CSI/Reeves from its date of acquisition in August 1995.

/(2)/ Average revenue per mile is net of fuel surcharges. Tractor and trailer data includes owned and leased equipment.

/(3)/ Reflects the sale by the Company of 2,500,000 shares of Class A Common Stock in fiscal 1995 and 2,885,000 shares of Class A Common Stock in the 1997 transition period.

/(4)/ Effective December 31, 1997, the Company changed its year-end to December 31 from March 31. As a result, the transition period ended December 31, 1997 is a nine-month period.

## ITEM 7. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

(dollars in thousands, except per share data)

Effective December 31, 1997 the Company changed its fiscal year for financial reporting purposes from a March 31 year-end to a December 31 year-end. Throughout this report, 1997 transition period relates to the nine-month period ended December 31, 1997, while fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996 refer to the fiscal years ended March 31, 1997 and March 31, 1996, respectively.

### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the components of the consolidated statements of operations expressed as a percentage of operating revenue:

	% of Revenues			
	Nine Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended March 31,	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
Operating Revenue	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	40.5	40.7	41.0	43.0
Fuel and Fuel Taxes	15.3	16.6	16.9	16.3
Vehicle Rents	6.4	5.7	6.0	5.8
Depreciation & Amortization	2.6	3.8	3.6	5.2
Purchased Transportation	8.5	6.5	6.3	6.6
Operating Expenses & Supplies	6.6	6.3	6.3	7.1
Insurance Premiums & Claims	3.3	4.5	4.2	4.3
Operating Taxes & Licenses	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.7
Communications & Utilities	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8
General & Other Operating	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.4
Total Operating Expenses	92.4	94.6	94.6	98.2
Income from Operations	7.6	5.4	5.4	1.8
Other Income (Expense)				
Interest Expense	(1.2)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.8)
Other Income (Expense)	--	--	--	--
	(1.2)	(1.5)	(1.5)	(1.8)
Income Before Income Tax Provision	6.4	3.9	3.9	0.0
Income Tax Provision	2.6	1.8	1.7	--
Net Income	3.8%	2.1%	2.2%	--



**COMPARISON OF THE NINE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997 TO THE NINE-MONTH PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1996 (UNAUDITED)**

OPERATING REVENUE during the 1997 transition period increased \$71,000 or 26.2% to \$342,300 compared to \$271,300 during the same period in 1996. This increase resulted primarily from a 24.3% increase in revenue miles, which was partially due to the April 1997 acquisition of JTI, Inc. Additionally, the non-truckload revenue from CSI/Crown and U.S. Xpress' logistics operations increased \$11,100 or 14.8%. The acquisition of JTI and Rosedale together contributed \$32,700 of the \$71,000 increase.

OPERATING EXPENSES represented 92.4% of operating revenue for the 1997 transition period, compared to 94.6% during the same period in 1996.

SALARIES, WAGES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS as a percentage of operating revenue was 40.5% for the 1997 transition period, compared to 40.7% during the same period in 1996. This decrease was due primarily to the growth of the owner operator fleet and to revenues growing faster than non-driver wages. These improvements were offset in part by an increase in driver pay of approximately two cents per mile or approximately 6% implemented in July 1997.

FUEL AND FUEL TAXES as a percentage of operating revenue was 15.3% for the 1997 transition period, compared to 16.6% during the same period in 1996. This decrease was primarily attributable to a 3.73% decrease in the average price per gallon, as well as a 1.48% increase in average miles per gallon. The Company uses purchase commitments to mitigate the effects of changes in fuel prices.

VEHICLE RENTS as a percentage of operating revenue was 6.4% for the 1997 transition period, compared to 5.7% for the same period in 1996. Depreciation and amortization, net of gain on disposition on equipment, as a percentage of operating revenue was 2.6% for the 1997 transition period versus 3.8% in 1996. Overall, as a percentage of operating revenue, vehicle rents and depreciation were 9.0% for the 1997 transition period, compared to 9.5% in 1996. This decrease was due to the growth of the owner operator fleet and an increase of \$0.8 million of gains on sale of revenue equipment. Owner-operators do not require company expenditures for revenue equipment. The Company recorded gains on the sale of revenue equipment of \$1,700 for the 1997 transition period, compared to \$900 for the same period in 1996. The gains on these sales are recorded as a reduction of depreciation expense.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND CLAIMS as a percentage of operating revenue was 3.3% for the 1997 transition period, compared to 4.5% for the same period in 1996. This decrease was due primarily to overall improvements in insurance and claims cost obtained through various insurance policies entered into in early 1997. Additionally, the increases in non-truckload revenue and the use of owner- operators do not require any additional company expenditures for insurance.

PURCHASED TRANSPORTATION as a percentage of operating revenue was 8.5% for the 1997 transition period, compared to 6.5% for the same period in 1996. This increase was due in part to the \$11,100 increase in non-truckload revenue from CSI/Crown and U.S. Xpress' logistics operations, which is serviced by outside agents. This increase was also the result of the growth of the owner operator fleet to 130 at December 31, 1997 from 33 at December 31, 1996.

GENERAL AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES as a percentage of operating revenue was 6.0% for the 1997 transition period, compared to 7.0% for the same period in 1996. This decrease is due to a 10.6% drop in the sale of installation supplies and a corresponding drop in the cost of goods sold related to those sales.

INCOME FROM OPERATIONS for the 1997 transition period increased \$11,400, or 77.6%, to \$26,100 from \$14,700 during the same period in 1996. As a percentage of operating revenue, income from operations was 7.6% for the 1997 transition period, compared to 5.4% during the same period in 1996.

## COMPARISON OF THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1997 TO THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 1996

The Company's initiatives to improve equipment utilization and to reduce operating expenses as a percent of revenue had favorable results for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997. In this period, utilization for the combined truckload operations increased 4.3% to \$2.761 in revenue per tractor per week, compared to \$2.646 during the same period in 1996. The operating ratio (operating expenses as a percentage of revenue) improved 3.6 percentage points, reflecting a 21.1% increase in revenue versus a 16.5% increase in operating expenses. The smaller increase in operating expenses, compared to revenues, was due to reductions in several fixed and variable expense items.

OPERATING REVENUE during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1997 increased \$63,100 or 21.1% to \$362,800 compared to \$299,700 during the same period in 1996. This increase resulted partially from the fiscal 1996 acquisitions of CSI/Reeves and Hall Systems, which together contributed \$29,700 of the \$63,100 increase. U.S. Xpress linehaul operations contributed \$33,400 to the increase. Increased U.S. Xpress linehaul revenue resulted from increased revenue miles and a slight increase in the rate per revenue mile.

OPERATING EXPENSES represented 94.6% of operating revenue for the year ended March 31, 1997, compared to 98.2% during the same period in 1996.

SALARIES, WAGES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS as a percentage of operating revenue was 41.0% for the year ended March 31, 1997, compared to 43.0% during the same period in 1996. This decrease is a result of salaries and wages for both Hall Systems and CSI/Crown representing a lower percentage of operating revenue due to the utilization of owner-operators at Hall Systems and the utilization of outside linehaul carriers at CSI/Crown. All owner-operator expenses and purchased linehaul services are reflected as purchased transportation.

FUEL AND FUEL TAXES as a percentage of operating revenue was 16.9% for the year ended March 31, 1997, compared to 16.3% during the same period in 1996. This increase was primarily attributable to an 11.0% increase in the average price per gallon, offset by a 2.2% increase in average miles per gallon.

VEHICLE RENTS as a percentage of operating revenue was 6.0% for the year ended March 31, 1997, compared to 5.8% for the same period in 1996. Depreciation and amortization, net of gain on disposition of equipment, as a percentage of operating revenue was 3.6% for the year ended March 31, 1997, compared to 5.2% during the same period in 1996. Overall, as a percentage of operating revenue, vehicle rents and depreciation were 9.6% for the year ended March 31, 1997, compared to 11.0% during the same period in 1996. This decrease was due in part to increased non-transportation revenue from CSI/Crown and an increase in owner-operator revenue from Hall Systems, both of which do not require expenditures for revenue equipment. Additionally, utilization for U.S. Xpress linehaul operations increased to \$2,761 in revenue per tractor per week for the year ended March 31, 1997, a 4.3% increase from the previous fiscal year, which reduced the number of tractors required.

PURCHASED TRANSPORTATION as a percentage of operating revenue was 6.3% for the fiscal year 1997, compared to 6.6% in the same period in 1996. This decrease is due to increased non-transportation revenue at CSI/Crown which does not require expenditures for purchased transportation.

OPERATING EXPENSES AND SUPPLIES as a percentage of operating revenue was 6.3% for the year ended March 31, 1997, compared to 7.1% during the same period in 1996. This decrease results from two factors: 1) an increase in non-transportation revenue from CSI/Crown and an increase in owner-operator revenue from Hall Systems, which do not require incremental company expenditures for operating expenses and supplies; and 2) reductions in maintenance expenses.

GENERAL AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES during the year ended March 31, 1997 was \$25,400 compared to \$19,100 during the same period in 1996. This increase is due to an increase in installation supplies sold to \$11,000 in 1997,

from \$6,600 in 1996. This expense item reflects the cost of carpet installation supplies which are sold through CSI/Crown retail outlets.

INCOME FROM OPERATIONS for the year ended March 31, 1997 increased \$14,400 or 271.7% to \$19,700 from \$5,300 during the same period in 1996. As a percentage of operating revenue, income from operations was 5.4% during the year ended March 31, 1997, compared to 1.8% during the same period in 1996.

INCOME TAX PROVISION for the year ended March 31, 1997 was \$6,400 compared to a \$19 benefit during the same period in 1996. This reflects an effective federal and state income tax rate of 44.7% for fiscal 1997, compared to the combined statutory federal and state rate of approximately 39.0%. This higher rate is primarily the result of non-deductible per diems paid to drivers during part of fiscal 1997. Subsequent to December 31, 1996, per diems paid to U.S. Xpress drivers were eliminated.

## **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The trucking industry is affected by economic risks and uncertainties, some of which are beyond its control. These include economic recessions and downturns in customers' business cycles, increases in fuel prices, the availability of qualified drivers and fluctuations in interest rates.

The trucking industry is highly competitive and includes numerous regional, inter-regional and national truckload carriers. Some of these carriers have greater financial resources, equipment and freight capacity than the Company. Management believes its strategies of controlled growth and focused marketing will continue to provide freight at sufficient volumes and prices to remain profitable. Changes in economic conditions could reduce both the amount of freight available and freight rates, which could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results.

Fuel is one of the Company's largest expenditures. In periods of high fuel prices, the Company offsets the effect of price increases through fuel surcharges to customers or through rate increases in lieu of fuel surcharges. The Company also periodically hedges against future fuel price increases by purchasing defined quantities of fuel for future delivery at contracted prices. Future increases or decreases in fuel prices are uncertain. To the extent the Company is unable to offset fuel price increases through fuel surcharges, rate increases or hedges, increased fuel prices could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results.

Competition for available qualified drivers in the truckload industry is intense, and will likely remain so for the foreseeable future. The Company and many of its competitors experience high rates of turnover and occasionally have difficulty in attracting and retaining qualified drivers in sufficient numbers to operate all available equipment. Management believes the Company's current pay structure, benefits, policies and procedures related to drivers are effective in attracting and retaining drivers. However, there can be no assurance that it will not be affected by a shortage of qualified drivers in the future. The inability to attract and retain qualified drivers would have a material adverse effect on the Company's results.

The trucking industry is extremely capital intensive. The Company depends on operating leases, lines of credit, secured equipment financing and cash flows from operations to finance the expansion and maintenance of its modern and cost efficient revenue equipment and facilities. At present, the Company is more highly leveraged than some of its competitors. If the Company were unable in the future to obtain financing at acceptable levels, it could be forced to limit the growth or replacement of its equipment and facilities. If interest rates increased significantly, it could have a material adverse effect on the Company's results.

## **LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES**

The Company's primary sources of liquidity during the nine month transition period ended December 31, 1997 were funds provided by operations, borrowings under long-term debt facilities, lines of credit, proceeds from the sale of equipment, the use of operating leases for revenue equipment, and proceeds from the sale of common stock. At December 31, 1997 the Company had in place a \$50,000 credit facility with a group of banks, of which \$17,500 was available for borrowing. In 1998, the Company's primary sources of liquidity are expected to be funds provided by operations, borrowings under lines of credit, and operating lease financing for the acquisition of revenue equipment.

Cash generated from operations increased to \$17,300 in the 1997 transition period from \$7,900 for the twelve months ended March 31, 1997. Net cash used in investment activities was \$47,300 in the 1997 transition period and \$3,200 for the twelve months ended March 31, 1997. Of the net cash used in investment activities in the 1997 transition period, \$58,700 was used to acquire additional property and equipment, compared to \$24,900 for the twelve

months ended March 31, 1997. The increase in purchases of property and equipment is due primarily to the purchase of revenue equipment previously financed with operating leases.

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$27,600 in the 1997 transition period compared to \$4,100 used in the twelve months ended March 31, 1997. The increase was due primarily to proceeds received from the sale of common stock through the public offering in August 1997. As a result, the net repayments on the lines of credit and long-term debt during the 1997 transition period were \$24,300 compared to \$4,200 in the twelve months ended March 31, 1997. Net payments under lines of credit were \$3,000 in the 1997 transition period, compared to net borrowings of \$1,000 for the twelve months ended March 31, 1997.

In January 1998, the Company obtained a new revolving line of credit with capacity up to \$200,000. A portion of the availability under this new line was immediately used to payoff certain existing long-term indebtedness bearing higher interest rates.

Management believes that funds provided by operations, borrowings under installment notes payable, operating lease financing and available borrowings under the Company's existing line of credit will be sufficient to fund its cash needs and anticipated capital expenditures through at least the next twelve months.

## **INFLATION**

Inflation has not had a material effect on the Company's results of operations or financial condition during the past three years. However, inflation higher than experienced during the past three years could have an adverse effect on the Company's future results.

## **SEASONALITY**

In the trucking industry, revenue generally shows a seasonal pattern as customers reduce shipments during and after the winter holiday season and its inherent weather variations. The Company's operating expenses also have historically been higher in the winter months, due primarily to decreased fuel efficiency and increased maintenance costs for revenue equipment in colder weather.

## **ACQUISITION OF VICTORY EXPRESS, INC.**

Effective January 29, 1998, the Company acquired Victory Express, Inc., a non-union truckload carrier based in Medway, Ohio, for \$51 million in cash and assumption of approximately \$2 million in debt. Prior to the acquisition, Victory had annual revenues of approximately \$65 million. Victory Express serves customers located primarily in the Midwest and on the Eastern seaboard. Other areas of the country served by Victory Express include Georgia, Texas and California. The company employs approximately 790 persons, including approximately 640 drivers and driver trainees.

Through this acquisition, management expects the Company to significantly expand its regional capabilities in the Midwest and extend its regional service capabilities to the East Coast. Victory Express' customer base is largely centered in automotive, paper, retail and air freight markets. In addition, U.S. Xpress continues to be presented with opportunities for additional business from its customers in the Midwest.

## **YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE**

Some computer systems that use two digits to indicate a year will not be able to process data properly for the year 2000. The Company has assessed the ability of its computer software and operating systems to function in the year 2000 and beyond. Systems in use by the Company in operations, accounting and purchasing are year 2000 compliant.

Testing of all U.S. Xpress systems for year 2000 compliance is scheduled for July 1998. Systems in use at CSI/Crown are presently 50% compliant with year 2000 requirements. Programming to make all CSI/Crown systems year 2000 compliant is expected to be completed by December 1998. Testing of all CSI/Crown systems is scheduled for March 1999.

A load optimization system purchased from Sabre Group is year 2000 compliant. A new version of the Q-Tracks satellite communication system that is year 2000 compliant has been purchased from Qualcomm, Inc. This system is being installed and is expected to be operational in June 1998. The Company does not currently have any information concerning the year 2000 compliance status of its other suppliers and customers. In the event that any of the Company's significant suppliers or customers do not successfully and timely achieve year 2000 compliance, the Company's business or operations could be adversely affected. The Company does not expect the costs of achieving year 2000 compliance to be material.

## ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

### REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

#### To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc. (a Nevada corporation) and subsidiaries as of December 31, 1997 and March 31, 1997, and the related consolidated statements of operations, stockholders' equity and cash flows for the nine months ended December 31, 1997 and the years ended March 31, 1997 and 1996. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 1997 and March 31, 1997, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the nine months ended December 31, 1997 and the years ended March 31, 1997 and 1996 in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

*Chattanooga, Tennessee*  
*February 5, 1998*

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31	
	1997	1997	1996
OPERATING REVENUE	\$342,272	\$362,819	\$299,697
OPERATING EXPENSES:			
Salaries, wages and benefits	138,582	148,850	129,311
Fuel and fuel taxes	52,438	61,268	48,782
Vehicle rents	21,912	21,603	17,263
Depreciation and amortization, net of gain on disposition of equipment	8,806	13,203	15,445
Purchased transportation	29,205	22,682	19,929
Operating expenses and supplies	22,459	22,503	21,321
Insurance premiums and claims	11,425	15,265	12,874
Operating taxes and licenses	5,228	5,984	5,227
Communications and utilities	5,683	6,301	5,343
General and other operating expenses	20,408	25,444	19,075
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated affiliate	-	-	(124)
Total operating expenses	316,146	343,103	294,446
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	26,126	19,716	5,251
Other income (expense):			
Interest expense	(4,168)	(5,542)	(5,251)
Other income	25	62	75
	(4,143)	(5,480)	(5,176)
Income before income taxes	21,983	14,236	75
Income tax (provision) benefit	(8,792)	(6,358)	19
NET INCOME	\$ 13,191	\$ 7,878	\$ 94
EARNINGS PER SHARE - BASIC	\$ .98	\$ .65	\$ .01
Weighted average shares - basic	13,467	12,082	12,003
EARNINGS PER SHARE - DILUTED	\$ .97	\$ .65	\$ .01
Weighted average shares - diluted	13,582	12,168	12,076

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**  
(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

	DECEMBER 31, 1997	MARCH 31, 1997
	-----	-----
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,734	\$ 5,092
Customer receivables, net of allowance of \$2,900 and \$2,733	58,496	50,056
Other receivables	9,085	3,969
Prepaid insurance and licenses	1,488	3,853
Operating and installation supplies	4,213	4,904
Deferred income taxes	3,092	4,443
Other current assets	508	719
	-----	-----
Total current assets	79,616	73,036
	-----	-----
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, AT COST		
Land and buildings	6,845	2,717
Revenue and service equipment	151,081	112,076
Furniture and equipment	13,062	11,265
Leasehold improvements	9,411	7,619
	-----	-----
	180,399	133,677
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	(44,344)	(39,803)
	-----	-----
Net property and equipment	136,055	93,874
	-----	-----
OTHER ASSETS		
Goodwill, net	12,593	7,700
Other	5,513	3,474
	-----	-----
Total other assets	18,106	11,174
	-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS	\$233,777	\$178,084
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 8,634	\$ 8,708
Accrued wages and benefits	4,325	5,086
Claims and insurance accruals	5,750	9,601
Other accrued liabilities	5,200	2,804
Current maturities of long-term debt	10,894	13,008
	-----	-----
Total current liabilities	34,803	39,207
	-----	-----
LONG-TERM DEBT, NET OF CURRENT MATURITIES	52,120	59,318
	-----	-----
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES	17,352	14,543
	-----	-----
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	1,009	1,854
	-----	-----
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Notes 2, 6 and 8)		
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Preferred Stock, \$.01 par value, 2,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued	-	-
Common Stock Class A, \$.01 par value, 30,000,000 shares authorized, 11,979,584 and 9,046,044 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 1997 and March 31, 1997, respectively	120	90
Common Stock Class B, \$.01 par value, 7,500,000 shares authorized, 3,040,262 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 1997 and March 31, 1997	30	30
Additional paid-in capital	85,942	33,832
Retained earnings	42,634	29,443
Notes receivable from stockholders	(233)	(233)
	-----	-----
Total stockholders' equity	128,493	63,162
	-----	-----
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	\$233,777	\$178,084
	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated balance sheets.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS**  
(In thousands)

	NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31	YEAR ENDED MARCH 31,	
	1997	1997	1996
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net income	\$ 13,191	\$ 7,878	\$ 94
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Deferred income tax provision	4,160	3,103	2,737
Depreciation and amortization	10,522	14,492	16,765
Gain on sales of equipment	(1,716)	(1,289)	(1,320)
Equity in earnings of unconsolidated affiliate	-	-	(124)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:			
Receivables	(5,590)	(7,309)	(9,674)
Prepaid insurance and licenses	2,828	984	(497)
Operating and installation supplies	729	(575)	(688)
Other assets	(1,138)	(1,141)	(559)
Accounts payable and other accrued liabilities	(4,867)	(7,722)	3,606
Accrued wages and benefits	(804)	(457)	(1,317)
Other	22	18	16
Net cash provided by operating activities	17,337	7,982	9,039
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Payments for purchases of property and equipment	(58,653)	(24,868)	(28,247)
Proceeds from sales of property and equipment	16,359	24,618	17,383
Repayment of notes receivable from stockholders	-	94	-
Acquisition of business, net of cash acquired	(4,990)	(3,048)	(6,227)
Acquisition of remaining 50% of unconsolidated affiliate, net of cash acquired	-	-	(239)
Net cash used in investing activities	(47,284)	(3,204)	(17,330)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Net borrowings (payments) under lines of credit	(3,000)	1,000	30,325
Payment of long-term debt	(44,159)	(26,450)	(36,355)
Borrowings under long-term debt	22,819	21,300	11,468
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	213	128	-
Proceeds from issuance of common stock	51,716	-	-
Repurchase of restricted common stock	-	(42)	(42)
Increase in other liabilities	-	-	906
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	27,589	(4,064)	6,302
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	(2,358)	714	(1,989)
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF PERIOD</b>	5,092	4,378	6,367
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, end of period</b>	\$ 2,734	5,092	\$ 4,378
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:</b>			
Cash paid during the period for interest	\$ 4,842	5,643	\$ 5,198
Cash paid (refunded) during the period for income taxes, net	\$ 2,100	2,766	\$ (470)
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF SIGNIFICANT NON-CASH INVESTING AND FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Issuance of long-term debt in connection with purchase of business	\$ -	\$ 792	\$ -

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.



**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**  
(In thousands, except share amounts)

	COMMON CLASS A	STOCK CLASS B	ADDITIONAL PAID-IN CAPITAL	RETAINED EARNINGS	NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM STOCKHOLDERS	TOTAL
BALANCE, MARCH 31, 1995	\$ 89	\$30	\$32,909	\$21,471	\$ (417)	\$ 54,082
Net income	-	-	-	94	-	94
Repurchase of 18,390 shares of restricted stock	(1)	-	(87)	-	45	(43)
Issuance of 1,744 shares of Class A Common Stock for non-employee director compensation	-	-	16	-	-	16
Issuance of 110,182 shares of Class A Common Stock for purchase of Hall Systems	1	-	936	-	-	937
BALANCE, MARCH 31, 1996	89	30	33,774	21,565	(372)	55,086
Net income	-	-	-	7,878	-	7,878
Repurchase of 18,390 shares of restricted stock	-	-	(87)	-	45	(42)
Repayment of notes receivable from stockholders	-	-	-	-	94	94
Issuance of 2,542 shares of Class A Common Stock for non-employee director compensation	-	-	18	-	-	18
Proceeds from exercise of 27,008 stock options	1	-	127	-	-	128
BALANCE, MARCH 31, 1997	90	30	33,832	29,443	(233)	63,162
Net income	-	-	-	13,191	-	13,191
Issuance of 1,210 shares of Class A Common Stock for non-employee director compensation	-	-	22	-	-	22
Proceeds from exercise of 37,332 stock options	-	-	213	-	-	213
Issuance of 10,000 shares of Class A Common Stock to officer	1	-	188	-	-	189
Issuance of 2,885,000 shares of Class A Common Stock in secondary offering	29	-	51,687	-	-	51,716
BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 1997	\$120	\$30	\$85,942	\$42,634	\$ (233)	\$128,493
	====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated statements.

## **NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

(Dollars in thousands, except per share amounts)

Effective December 31, 1997 the Company changed its fiscal year for financial reporting purposes from a March 31 year-end to a December 31 year-end. For purposes of these financial statements and notes to these financial statements, "1997 transition period" relates to the nine-month period ended December 31, 1997, while "fiscal 1997" and "fiscal 1996" refer to the fiscal years ended March 31, 1997 and March 31, 1996, respectively.

### **1. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**

U. S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc. (the "Company") provides transportation services through two subsidiaries. U.S. Xpress, Inc. ("U.S. Xpress") is a truckload carrier serving the Continental United States, Canada and Mexico. CSI/Crown, Inc. ("CSI/Crown") provides transportation and logistics services to the floorcovering industry.

### **2. ACQUISITIONS**

Effective March 31, 1994, the Company acquired 50% of the outstanding stock of Hall Systems, Inc. ("Hall Systems") for \$625 cash and a \$625 note payable. Effective October 31, 1995, the Company acquired the remaining 50% of the outstanding stock of Hall Systems for \$1,000 cash and 110,182 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock in a transaction accounted for by the purchase method of accounting.

Effective August 31, 1995, the Company acquired 100% of the outstanding stock of CSI/Reeves, Inc. ("CSI/Reeves") for cash of \$6,240 in a transaction accounted for by the purchase method of accounting. Effective January 1, 1996, CSI/Reeves was merged into the Company's existing freight consolidator (Crown Transport Systems, Inc.) to form CSI/Crown, Inc.

In June 1996, the Company acquired certain equipment and the right to fulfill a contract to provide expedited truckload services in the Western United States to a major air freight company from Michael Lima Transportation for \$3,048 cash and a \$792 note payable. In addition, \$1,000 will be paid to the seller on January 1, 1999 if the Company is able to extend the contract. The pro forma effect of this transaction on prior period financial statements is immaterial.

Effective April 1, 1997 the Company acquired certain assets from Rosedale Transport Inc. for \$2,300 cash. The acquisition was accounted for as a purchase.

Effective April 30, 1997, the Company acquired revenue equipment and other assets from JTI, Inc. ("JTI") for \$2,690 cash and the assumption of \$17,500 in debt, in a transaction accounted for by the purchase method of accounting. In addition to these amounts, the Company will pay the former owners of JTI 25% of the net income from the JTI division for each of the following 10 years. The acquired and leased assets include approximately 200 tractors and 400 trailers.

The results of operations of Rosedale Transport and JTI are included in the accompanying consolidated financial statements from the dates of their respective acquisitions. On a pro forma (unaudited) basis, operating revenue for the Company would have been approximately \$345,000 and \$408,000 for the 1997 transition period and fiscal 1997 had the Rosedale and JTI acquisitions taken place at the beginning of the respective periods. The impact on net income and earnings per share is insignificant. This information is for comparative purposes only and does not purport to be indicative of the results of operations which would have occurred had the transactions been completed at the beginning of the respective periods or indicative of the results which may occur in the future.

Subsequent to December 31, 1997, the Company acquired Victory Express, Inc. for \$51,000 in cash and the assumption of approximately \$2,000 in debt. Victory's calendar 1997 revenues were approximately \$65,000.

### **3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **PRINCIPLES OF CONSOLIDATION**

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries. All significant intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated.

USE OF ESTIMATES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include all highly liquid investment instruments with an original maturity of three months or less.

RECOGNITION OF REVENUE

For financial reporting purposes, the Company generally recognizes revenue and direct cost when shipments are completed.

CONCENTRATION OF CREDIT RISK

Concentrations of credit risk with respect to customer receivables are limited due to the large number of entities comprising the Company's customer base and their dispersion across many different industries. The Company performs ongoing credit evaluations and generally does not require collateral.

OPERATING AND INSTALLATION SUPPLIES

Operating supplies consist primarily of tires, parts, materials and supplies for servicing the Company's revenue and service equipment. Installation supplies consist of various accessories used in the installation of floorcoverings and are held for sale at various CSI/Crown distribution centers. Operating and installation supplies are recorded at the lower of cost (on a first-in, first- out basis) or market. Tires and tubes purchased as part of revenue and service equipment are capitalized as part of the cost of the equipment. Replacement tires and tubes are charged to expense when placed in service.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment is carried at cost. Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment are computed using the straight-line method for financial reporting purposes and accelerated methods for tax purposes over the estimated useful lives of the related assets (net of salvage value) as follows:

Buildings	10-30 years
-----	-----
Revenue and service equipment	3-7 years
-----	-----
Furniture and equipment	3-7 years
-----	-----
Leasehold improvements	5-6 years
-----	-----

The Company recognized \$9,895, \$13,837 and \$16,066 in depreciation expense in the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively. Upon the retirement of property and equipment, the related asset cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts and any gain or loss is reflected in the Company's statement of operations with the exception of gains on trade-ins, which are included in the basis of the new asset. Gains on sales of equipment of \$1,716, \$1,289 and \$1,320 for the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively, are included in depreciation expense.

Expenditures for normal maintenance and repairs are expensed. Renewals or betterments that affect the nature of an asset or increase its useful life are capitalized.

GOODWILL

The excess of the consideration paid by the Company over the estimated fair value of net assets acquired has been recorded as goodwill and is being amortized on the straight-line basis over periods ranging from 20 to 40 years. The Company continually evaluates whether subsequent events and circumstances have occurred that indicate that the remaining estimated useful life of goodwill may warrant revision or that the remaining balance may not be recoverable. When factors indicate that goodwill should be evaluated for possible impairment, the Company uses an estimate of the future undiscounted net cash flows of the related businesses over the remaining life of the goodwill in measuring

whether goodwill is recoverable. The Company recognized \$323, \$272 and \$220 of goodwill amortization expense in the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively. Accumulated amortization was \$1,351 at December 31, 1997 and \$1,028 at March 31, 1997.

## **CLAIMS AND INSURANCE ACCRUALS**

The primary claims in the Company's business are cargo loss and damage, physical damage and automobile liability. Prior to January 1, 1997, most of the Company's insurance provided for large self-insurance levels with excess coverage sufficient to protect the Company from catastrophic claims. Beginning January 1997, the Company began purchasing policies with low deductibles which essentially fully insure cargo and auto liability, while physical damage has an annual aggregate deductible. For claims with self-insurance levels, estimated costs are accrued based upon information provided by insurance adjustors for reported claims and adjusted for expected loss development factors and the estimated liability for claims incurred but not reported.

## **OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

Periodically, the Company receives volume rebates from vendors related to certain operating leases for new revenue and service equipment. Additionally, certain equipment leases include spare tires, which increase tire inventories. The Company defers recognition of these rebates and amortizes such amounts as a reduction of vehicle rent expense over the respective lease terms. At December 31, 1997 and March 31, 1997, other long-term liabilities include deferred rents of \$1,009 and \$1,295, respectively.

## **CONTRACT WAGES**

Effective January 1, 1997, the Company entered into an agreement with a Professional Employer Organization (PEO) in which the PEO is a co-employer with the Company for all of the Company's personnel. The PEO is responsible for processing and administration of the Company's payroll, including tax reporting, and provides group health benefits and worker's compensation coverage.

## **FUEL PURCHASE COMMITMENTS**

The Company has only limited involvement with derivative financial instruments and does not use them for trading purposes. They are periodically used to mitigate the effects of changes in the price of fuel. At December 31, 1997, the Company had commitments to purchase amounts ranging from 1,500,000 gallons in January 1998 to 500,000 gallons in December 1998. Management estimates that the aggregate commitment at December 31, 1997 will represent less than 15% of the total fuel to be purchased by the Company in 1998. The fair value of the fuel contracts is not significant.

## **EARNINGS PER SHARE**

Effective for the period ended December 31, 1997, the Company adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 128 O Earnings Per ShareO ("SFAS No. 128"), which changes the criteria for reporting earnings per share ("EPS") by replacing primary EPS with basic EPS and fully diluted EPS with diluted EPS. All prior EPS data have been restated. The difference in basic and diluted EPS is due to the assumed conversion of outstanding options resulting in approximately 115,000, 86,000 and 73,000 equivalent shares in the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively.

## **RECLASSIFICATIONS**

Certain reclassifications have been made in the fiscal 1997 and 1996 financial statements to conform with the 1997 transition period presentation.

## **STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION**

The Company accounts for its stock-based compensation plans under Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 25, O Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees' ("APB No. 25"). Effective fiscal 1997, the Company adopted the disclosure option of SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation."

#### 4. INCOME TAXES

The income tax provision (benefit) for the 1997 transition period and fiscal 1997 and 1996 consisted of the following:

	1997 TRANSITION PERIOD	FISCAL 1997	FISCAL 1996
	-----	-----	-----
CURRENT			
Federal	\$3,854	\$2,726	\$(2,876)
State	778	529	120
	-----	-----	-----
	4,632	3,255	(2,756)
DEFERRED	\$4,160	\$3,103	\$ 2,737
	-----	-----	-----
	\$8,792	\$6,358	\$ (19)
	=====	=====	=====

The income tax provision (benefit) as reported in the consolidated statements of operations differs from the amounts computed by applying federal statutory rates due to the following:

	1997 TRANSITION PERIOD	FISCAL 1997	FISCAL 1996
	-----	-----	-----
Federal income tax at statutory rate	\$7,694	\$4,840	\$ 25
State income taxes, net of federal income tax benefit	513	349	73
Goodwill amortization	58	75	75
Nondeductible driver per diems	193	650	-
Other	334	444	(192)
	-----	-----	-----
Income tax provision (benefit)	\$8,792	\$6,358	\$ (19)
	=====	=====	=====

The tax effect of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of deferred tax assets and liabilities at December 31, 1997 and March 31, 1997 consisted of the following:

	DECEMBER 31, 1997	MARCH 31, 1997
	-----	-----
DEFERRED TAX ASSETS		
Allowance for doubtful accounts	\$ 1,067	\$ 952
Insurance reserves	2,243	3,721
Alternative minimum tax credit carryforwards	189	2,362
Claims and other reserves	219	826
Other	130	284
	-----	-----
Total deferred tax assets	\$ 3,848	\$ 8,145
	=====	=====
DEFERRED TAX LIABILITIES		
Book over tax basis of property and equipment	\$17,557	\$16,880
Prepaid license fees	509	1,279
Other	42	86
	-----	-----
Total deferred tax liabilities	\$18,108	\$18,245
	=====	=====

## 5. LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt at December 31, 1997 and March 31, 1997 consisted of the following:

	DECEMBER 31, 1997	MARCH 31, 1997
	-----	-----
Obligation under line of credit with a group of banks, weighted average interest rate of 6.8% at December 31, 1997, maturing August 1999	\$ 29,500	\$ 32,500
Installment notes with banks, weighted average interest rate of 6.97% at December 31, 1997, maturing at various dates ranging from January 1998 to December 2002	28,384	14,673
Installment notes with finance companies, weighted average interest rate of 7.73% at December 31, 1997, maturing at various dates ranging from March 1998 to December 2000	3,744	23,598
Note payable to former stockholder of National Freight Systems, interest payable at 7% at December 31, 1997, due in January 1998	200	200
Note payable to stockholder of Lima Transportation, Inc., interest payable at 9%, paid in 1997 transition period	-	792
Other	1,186	563
	-----	-----
	\$ 63,014	\$ 72,326
Less: current maturities of long-term debt	(10,894)	(13,008)
	-----	-----
	\$ 52,120	\$ 59,318
	=====	=====

The installment notes with banks and finance companies are collateralized by certain property and equipment of the Company.

In November 1995, the Company entered into an unsecured credit agreement (the OCredit Agreement") with a group of banks. The Credit Agreement operates as a revolving credit facility until August 1999, at which time it will convert to a three year installment loan, if not extended or renewed.

Borrowings (including letters of credit) under the Credit Agreement are limited to the lesser of: (a) 90% of the book value of eligible revenue equipment plus 85% of eligible accounts receivable; or (b) \$50,000. Borrowings under the Credit Agreement bear interest, at the option of the Company, equal to either: (i) the greater of the bank prime rate or the federal funds rate plus 1/2%, (ii) the rate offered in the Eurodollar market for amounts and periods comparable to the relevant loan plus a margin that is determined by several financial covenants, or (iii) the rate offered to the Company for a loan of a specific amount and maturity by any of the participating banks under a competitive bid process. At December 31, 1997, the margin applicable to the Eurodollar interest rate was equal to 1.25%.

The Credit Agreement contains covenants that limit, among other things, the payment of dividends, the incurrence of additional debt, and the pledging of assets as security on other indebtedness. The Credit Agreement also requires the Company to meet certain financial tests, including a minimum amount of tangible net worth, a minimum fixed charge coverage and a maximum amount of leverage.

In January 1998, the Company obtained a new line of credit through a syndicate of banks with aggregate capacity up to \$200,000. The total capacity is further restricted by a borrowing base which restricted the aggregate limit to \$112,000 at the time the facility was placed in service. The new facility has among its financial covenants, limitations on the amount of financial leverage, total debt and thresholds for the capital adequacy of the Company. A portion of

the availability under this new line was immediately used to payoff certain existing long-term indebtedness bearing higher interest rates. This facility is scheduled to mature January 15, 2001 and contains provisions for two annual extensions.

After giving effect to the refinancing of the line of credit in January 1998, the aggregate annual maturities of long-term debt for each of the next five years ending December 31 are:

1998	\$10,894
-----	-----
1999	9,464
-----	-----
2000	3,274
-----	-----
2001	37,992
-----	-----
2002	958
-----	-----

## 6. LEASES

The Company leases certain revenue and service equipment and office and terminal facilities under long-term non-cancelable operating lease agreements expiring at various dates through December 2002. Rental expense under these agreements was approximately \$21,912, \$26,388, and \$19,437 for the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively.

Approximate aggregate minimum future rentals payable under these operating leases for each of the next five years are:

1998	\$31,215
-----	-----
1999	26,884
-----	-----
2000	13,989
-----	-----
2001	5,068
-----	-----
2002	2,912
-----	-----

## 7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Company leases certain office and terminal facilities from entities owned by the two principal stockholders of the Company. The lease agreements are for five-year terms and provide the Company with the option to renew the lease agreements for four three-year terms. Rent expense of approximately \$1,145, \$1,639, and \$1,256 was recognized in connection with these leases during the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively.

The two principal stockholders of the Company own 100% of the outstanding common stock of Paragon Leasing LLC ("Paragon"). Paragon leases certain revenue and service equipment to the Company on a temporary basis. Rent expense of approximately \$1,276, \$869 and \$1,028 was recognized in connection with these leases during the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively.

Prior to December 31, 1995, a principal stockholder of the Company directly controlled 50% of the outstanding stock of LTL Express Systems. During the year ended March 31, 1996, the Company recognized operating revenue from LTL Express Systems of approximately \$427. The principal stockholder disposed of his interest in LTL Express Systems effective December 31, 1995.

The two principal stockholders of the Company and certain partnerships controlled by their families own 43% of the outstanding common stock of Transcommunications, Inc. ("Transcom"). Transcom makes a debit card system available to the Company's drivers through which phone calls and Internet e-mail can be credited while the driver is on the road. Total payments by the Company to Transcom were approximately \$112, \$143 and \$148 in the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively.

## 8. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Company is party to certain legal proceedings incidental to its business. The ultimate disposition of these matters, in the opinion of management, based in part on the advice of legal counsel, will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's financial position or results of operations.

Letters of credit of \$3,055 were outstanding at December 31, 1997. The letters of credit are maintained primarily to support the Company's insurance program (see Note 3). Commitment fees of 1% on the outstanding portion of the letters of credit are paid by the Company.

## **9. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS**

The Company has in place an employee profit-sharing plan covering substantially all non-driver employees. The plan provides for additional compensation to employees, the amount of which is based on results of operations exceeding certain goals.

The Company has a 401(k) retirement plan covering substantially all employees of the Company, whereby participants may contribute a percentage of their compensation, as allowed under applicable laws. The plan provides for a matching contribution by the Company. Participants are 100% vested in participant contributions and become vested in employer matching contributions over a period of four years.

The Company recognized \$1,152, \$400 and \$290 in expense under these employee benefit plans for the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively.

## **10. STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY**

### **PUBLIC OFFERING**

In the 1997 transition period, the Company completed a secondary public offering through the issuance of 2,885,000 shares of Class A Common Stock. As a result of this offering, the Company received proceeds, net of underwriting discounts and commissions and issuance costs, of \$51,716. The Company utilized the net proceeds to acquire certain equipment previously leased under operating leases and to reduce outstanding debt.

### **COMMON STOCK**

Holders of Class A Common Stock are entitled to one vote per share. Holders of Class B Common Stock are entitled to two votes per share. Once the Class B Common Stock is no longer held by the two principal stockholders of the Company, or their families, as defined, the stock is automatically converted into Class A Common Stock on a share per share basis.

### **PREFERRED STOCK**

Effective December 31, 1993, the Board of Directors approved the designation of 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock with par value of \$.01 per share. The Board of Directors has the authority to issue these shares and to determine the rights, terms and conditions of the preferred stock as needed.

### **INCENTIVE STOCK PLAN**

In November 1993, the Company adopted the U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc. Incentive Stock Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan provides for the issuance of shares of restricted common stock of the Company, as well as both incentive and nonstatutory stock options. There may be issued under the Plan (as restricted stock, in payment of performance grants, or pursuant to the exercise of stock options) an aggregate of not more than the greater of (a) 1,038,138 shares of Class A Common Stock, or (b) 8% of the total number of common shares of the Company outstanding at any given time. Participants of the Plan may include key employees as selected by the compensation committee of the Board of Directors. Under the terms of the Plan, the Company may issue restricted shares of common stock, grant options, or issue performance grants to participants in amounts and for such prices as determined by the compensation committee. All options will vest immediately in the event of a change in control of the Company, or upon the death, disability, or retirement of the employee.

On November 30, 1993, 289,195 shares of restricted stock were sold to employees at \$4.72 per share, which approximated the fair market value of the shares at the date of sale. Employees issued recourse notes payable to the Company in the aggregate amount of \$1,365 as proceeds for the issuance of the restricted shares. The notes bear interest at 6% and are due in three equal annual installments beginning November 30, 1999. The restricted stock may not be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or otherwise disposed of during the restriction period.

In fiscal 1995, the board authorized, upon the completion of the initial public offering, the removal of the restrictions on 91,800 shares scheduled to expire on November 30, 1996. In exchange for the removal of restrictions on these shares, the affected employees repaid an aggregate of \$838 of the related notes receivable. During each of fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, 18,390 shares of restricted stock were forfeited, and related notes receivable of \$45 were canceled in each year. There were no forfeitures or note receivable cancellations for the 1997 transition period. The restrictions on the remaining initial shares issued on November 30, 1993 expire on November 30, 1998. On July 3, 1997,



10,000 restricted shares were issued. The restrictions on these 10,000 shares expire over a five-year period beginning July 3, 1998. At December 31, 1997, 101,750 shares of restricted stock were outstanding. Restrictions on all shares expire in the event of a change in control of the Company or upon the death, disability or retirement of the employee.

## NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS STOCK PLAN

In August 1995, the Company adopted the 1995 Non-Employee Directors Stock Award and Option Plan (the "Directors Stock Plan") providing for the issuance of stock options to non-employee directors upon their election to the Company's Board of Directors. The Directors Stock Plan also provides non-employee directors the option to receive certain board-related compensation in the form of stock. The number of shares of Class A Common Stock available for option or issue under the Directors Stock Plan may not exceed 50,000 shares.

The Directors Stock Plan provides for the grant of 1,200 options to purchase the Company's Class A Common Stock to each non-employee director upon the election of each such director to the Board. The exercise price of options issued under the plan is set at the fair market value of the Company's stock on the date granted. Options vest at the rate of 400 options on each of the first, second and third anniversaries of the date of grant. In August 1997, 1996 and 1995, 2,400 options were granted to non-employee directors with an exercise price of \$18.00, \$6.625 and \$9.50, respectively.

The Directors Stock Plan also provides non-employee directors the option to receive compensation earned for board-related activities in the form of the Company's Class A Common Stock in lieu of cash. If a board member elects to receive board-related compensation in the form of stock, the number of shares issued to each director in lieu of cash is determined based on the amount of earned compensation divided by the fair market value of the Company's stock on the date compensation is earned.

During the 1997 transition period and the years ended March 31, 1997 and 1996, 1,208, 2,542 and 1,744 shares, respectively, of the Company's Class A Common Stock were issued to non-employee directors in lieu of cash compensation of \$22, \$18 and \$16, respectively.

## EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

In August 1997, the Company adopted an Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "ESPP") through which employees meeting certain eligibility criteria may purchase shares of the Company's common stock at a discount. Under the ESPP, eligible employees may purchase shares of the Company's common stock, subject to certain limitations, at a 15% discount. Employees may not purchase more than 1,250 shares in any six-month period or purchase stock having a market value of more than \$25,000 per calendar year. Common stock is purchased by employees in January and July of each year. No stock purchases were made in the 1997 transition period. The Company has reserved 300,000 shares for issuance under the ESPP. In January 1998, 156 employees purchased a total of 17,001 shares of the Company's Class A Common Stock at a price of \$16.15 per share.

## STOCK OPTIONS

Stock options generally vest over periods ranging from three to six years and expire ten years from the date of grant.

A summary of the Company's stock option activity for the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996 follows:

	SHARES	OPTION PRICE	WEIGHTED-AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE
Outstanding at March 31, 1995	165,064	\$ 4.72	\$ 4.72
Granted at market price	2,400	\$ 9.50	\$ 9.50
Outstanding at March 31, 1996	167,464	\$ 4.72-\$ 9.50	\$ 4.79
Granted at market price	99,400	\$ 6.63-\$ 6.88	\$ 6.87
Exercised	(27,008)	\$ 4.72	\$ 4.72
Canceled or expired	(40,514)	\$ 4.72-\$ 9.50	\$ 5.12
Outstanding at March 31, 1997	199,342	\$ 4.72-\$ 9.50	\$ 5.77
Granted at market price	109,900	\$18.00-\$19.13	\$18.93
Exercised	(37,332)	\$ 4.72-\$ 6.88	\$ 5.72
Canceled or expired	(667)	\$ 6.88	\$ 6.88
Outstanding at December 31, 1997	271,243	\$ 4.72-\$ 9.13	\$11.10

## ACCOUNTING FOR STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

For SFAS No. 123 purposes, the fair value of each option grant and each stock purchase right under the ESPP has been estimated as of the date of grant using the Black-Scholes pricing model with the following weighted average assumptions for the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively: risk-free interest rate of 6.06%, 6.56% and 6.24%, expected life of five years, expected dividend yield of 0% and expected volatility of 51%, 58% and 58%. Using these assumptions, the fair value of the awards granted in the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996 is \$737, \$294, and \$9, respectively, which would be amortized as compensation expense over the vesting period. Had compensation cost for the plan been determined in accordance with SFAS No. 123, utilizing the assumptions detailed above, the Company's pro forma net income would have been \$13,054, \$7,816 and \$93 for the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively. Pro forma basic earnings per share would have been \$.97, \$.65 and \$.01 for the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996, respectively. Pro forma diluted earnings per share would have been \$.96, \$.64 and \$.01 for the same periods.

The pro forma effect on net income in this pro forma disclosure may not be representative of the pro forma effect on net income in future years, because it does not take into consideration pro forma compensation expense related to grants made prior to fiscal 1996.

The weighted-average fair value of options granted during the 1997 transition period, fiscal 1997 and fiscal 1996 was \$9.00, \$3.89 and \$5.35, respectively. Of the options outstanding at December 31, 1997, 161,343 have exercise prices between \$4.72 and \$9.50, with a weighted average exercise price of \$5.77 and a weighted average contractual life of 7.2 years. Of these options, 77,259 are exercisable at a weighted average exercise price of \$5.50. Options to exercise the remaining 109,900 shares have exercise prices between \$18.00 and \$19.13, with a weighted average exercise price of \$18.93 and a weighted average remaining contractual life of 9.6 years. None of these options are exercisable as of December 31, 1997. As of March 31, 1997, 73,050 of the options outstanding were exercisable with a weighted average exercise price of \$5.66 per share. As of March 31, 1996, 33,412 of the options outstanding were exercisable with a weighted average exercise price of \$4.78 per share.

## 11. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying values of cash and cash equivalents, customer and other receivables, accounts payable and accrued liabilities are reasonable estimates of their fair values because of the short maturity of these financial instruments. Based on the borrowing rates available to the Company for long-term debt with similar terms and average maturities, the carrying amounts approximate the fair value of such financial instruments.

## 12. CHANGE IN FISCAL YEAR

Effective December 31, 1997, the Company changed its fiscal year end from March 31 to December 31. As a result, the December 31, 1997 results of operations are for a nine-month period. Following are selected financial data for the nine-month periods ended December 31, 1997 and 1996.

	1997	1996 (UNAUDITED)
	-----	-----
Operating Revenue	\$342,272	\$271,256
Income from operations	26,126	14,736
Income before income tax provision	21,983	10,627
Net income	13,191	5,708
Earnings per share - basic	0.98	0.47
Earnings per share - diluted	0.97	0.47

## 13. QUARTERLY FINANCIAL DATA (UNAUDITED)

	FIRST QUARTER	SECOND QUARTER	THIRD QUARTER	FOURTH QUARTER/(2)/	TOTAL
NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997					
Operating revenue	\$107,933	\$115,378	\$118,961	-	\$342,272
Income from operations	8,034	8,838	9,254	-	26,126
Income before income tax provision	6,463	7,300	8,220	-	21,983
Net income	3,879	4,378	4,934	-	13,191
Earnings Per Share - basic	0.32	0.33	0.33	-	0.98
Earnings Per Share - diluted/(1)/	0.32	0.33	0.33	-	0.97
FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1997					
Operating revenue	\$ 87,817	\$ 92,259	\$ 91,179	\$91,564	\$362,819
Income from operations	2,241	6,026	6,473	4,976	19,716
Income before income tax provision	896	4,611	5,120	3,609	14,236
Net income	552	2,745	2,411	2,170	7,878
Earnings per share - basic/(1)/	0.05	0.23	0.20	0.18	0.65
Earnings per share - diluted/(1)/	0.05	0.23	0.20	0.18	0.65

/(1)/ The sum of quarterly earnings per share differs from annual earnings per share because of differences in the weighted average number of common shares used in the quarterly and annual computations.

/(2)/ Due to the change in year end to December 31, 1997, there were only three quarters for the 1997 transition period.

**ITEM 9. CHANGES IN AND DISAGREEMENTS WITH ACCOUNTANTS ON ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

No items have occurred within the 24 months prior to December 31, 1997 involving a change of accountants or disagreements on accounting and financial disclosure.

## PART III

### ITEM 10. DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE REGISTRANT

NAME	AGE	POSITION
James B. Baker	52	Director
Steven J. Cleary	40	President, CSI/Crown, Inc.
William K. Farris	45	Director, Executive Vice President - Operations and President, U.S. Xpress, Inc.
Max L. Fuller	45	Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vice President and Secretary
Ray M. Harlin	48	Director, Executive Vice President - Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Alan J. Hingst	51	President, JTI Division of U.S. Xpress, Inc.
E. William Lusk, Jr.	42	Director and Executive Vice President - Marketing
David R. Parker	58	Chairman, JTI Division of U.S. Xpress, Inc.
Ronald E. Pate	55	President, U.S. Xpress Leasing, Inc.
Patrick E. Quinn	51	Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Treasurer
A. Alexander Taylor, II	44	Director

JAMES B. BAKER has served as a director of the Company since 1994. Mr. Baker has been a partner in River Associates, LLC since 1993. Mr. Baker is also a director of Wellman, Inc. (chemical company).

STEVEN J. CLEARY joined the Company in 1991 as Director of Human Resources and was named Vice President of Human Resources and Safety in 1994 and Executive Vice President of Human Resources in 1996. He was named Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of CSI/Crown in 1997 and President of CSI/Crown later in 1997. Prior to joining the Company, he served in operations and human resources management positions for Ryder Distribution Services and Rollins Transportation Services.

WILLIAM K. FARRIS was named Executive Vice President - Operations of the Company and President of U.S. Xpress in 1996. He previously had served as Vice President of Operations of the Company since 1993. Prior to that, Mr. Farris was Vice President of Operations of Southwest Motor Freight, a former operating subsidiary of the Company, from 1991 to 1993. Mr. Farris was first elected a director of the Company in 1994.

MAX L. FULLER has served as Co-Chairman of the Board of the Company since March 1994 and Vice President and Secretary of the Company since 1985. Mr. Fuller was first elected a director of the Company in 1985.

RAY M. HARLIN joined the Company in 1997 as Executive Vice President - Finance and Chief Financial Officer. He was elected a Director in August 1997. Mr. Harlin was employed for 25 years with the public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen LLP. He was a partner with that firm for the last 14 years.

ALAN J. HINGST co-founded JTI, Inc. in 1985 with David R. Parker and has served as its President since 1986. He has been employed in the transportation industry for 33 years.

E. WILLIAM LUSK, JR. has served as Vice President - Marketing of the Company since 1991 and was named an Executive Vice President of the Company in 1996. Mr. Lusk previously served as Executive Vice President of U.S. Xpress from 1987 to 1990. Mr. Lusk was first elected a director of the Company in 1994.

DAVID R. PARKER has served as Chairman of JTI, Inc. since co-founding the company with Alan J. Hingst in 1985. Prior to that, Mr. Parker served as Vice President and General Counsel of Crete Carrier Corp. and affiliated companies.

RONALD E. PATE joined the Company in 1994 as Assistant Director of Maintenance. He was named Director of Maintenance later that year and was named Executive Vice President of U.S. Xpress Leasing, Inc., the Company's

equipment leasing and maintenance subsidiary, in 1995. He was named President of U.S. Xpress Leasing, Inc. in 1996. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Pate was Vice President of Chattanooga Operations for Universal Tire Company in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

PATRICK E. QUINN has served as Co-Chairman of the Board of the Company since March 1994 and President and Treasurer of the Company since 1985. Mr. Quinn was first elected a director of the Company in 1985.

A. ALEXANDER TAYLOR, II has served as a director of the Company since 1994. Mr. Taylor was named President and Chief Operating Officer of Chattem, Inc., a consumer products company, in January 1998. Prior to that, Mr. Taylor had served as a partner with the law firm of Miller & Martin LLP since 1983. Mr. Taylor is also a director of Chattem, Inc.

#### **ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

The information set forth under the caption "Executive Compensation and Other Information" on pages 7 through 9 of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

#### **ITEM 12. SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT**

The information set forth under the caption "Voting Securities and Principal Holders Thereof" on pages 3 and 4 of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

#### **ITEM 13. CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

The information set forth under the caption "Election of Directors" on pages 4 and 5 and "Certain Transactions" on page 6 of the Proxy Statement is incorporated herein by reference.

## **PART IV**

### **ITEM 14. EXHIBITS, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, SCHEDULES AND REPORTS ON FORM 8-K**

#### **(a) 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

The financial statements are set forth in Part II, Item 8.

#### **2. FINANCIAL STATEMENT SCHEDULES:**

Report of Independent Public Accountants Schedule II - - Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

#### **3. EXHIBITS:**

See the Exhibit Index on page 40 of this Form 10-K.

#### **(b) REPORTS ON FORM 8-K**

There were no reports on Form 8-K filed during the quarter ended December 31, 1997.

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

### TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS OF U.S. XPRESS ENTERPRISES, INC.:

We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the consolidated financial statements of U.S. XPRESS ENTERPRISES, INC. (a Nevada corporation) AND SUBSIDIARIES in this Form 10-K and have issued our report thereon dated February 5, 1998. Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. Schedule II is the responsibility of the Company's management and is presented for purposes of complying with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and is not part of the basic consolidated financial statements. This schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic consolidated financial statements and, in our opinion, fairly states in all material respects the financial data required to be set forth therein in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

/S/ ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

*Chattanooga, Tennessee*  
*February 5, 1998*

**SCHEDULE II**  
**VALUATION AND QUALIFYING ACCOUNTS**

FOR THE YEARS ENDED MARCH 31, 1996 AND 1997 AND THE NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997

(In Thousands)

DESCRIPTION	BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD	CHARGED TO COST/EXPENSES	CHARGED TO OTHER (1)	DEDUCTIONS (2)	BALANCE AT END OF PERIOD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 3/31/96					
Reserve for doubtful accounts	\$1,630	\$ 784	\$1,036	\$ 417	\$3,033
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 3/31/97					
Reserve for doubtful accounts	\$3,033	\$1,259	\$ 113	\$1,672	\$2,733
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 12/31/97					
Reserve for doubtful accounts	\$2,733	\$ 774	\$ 490	\$1,097	\$2,900
(1)					
For the year ended 3/31/96					
Recoveries on accounts written off		\$ 25			
Balance acquired through purchase of CSI/Reeves		886			
Balance acquired through purchase of Hall Systems		125			
		-----			
		\$1,036			
		=====			
For the year ended 3/31/97					
Recoveries on accounts written off		\$ 113			
		=====			
For the nine months ended 12/31/97					
Recoveries on accounts written off		\$ 268			
Balance acquired through purchase of JTI		222			
		-----			
		\$ 490			
		=====			
(2)					
Accounts written off					



(c)	EXHIBITS
EXHIBIT NO. -----	DESCRIPTION -----
*	3.1 Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company.
*	3.2 By-Laws of the Company.
*	4.1 Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company filed as Exhibit 3.1 and incorporated herein by reference.
*	4.2 By-Laws of the Company filed as Exhibit 3.2 and incorporated herein by reference.
*	4.3 Stock Purchase Agreement dated June 10, 1993 by and among Max L. Fuller, Patrick E. Quinn and the Company.
*	4.4 Agreement of Right of First Refusal with regard to Class B Shares of the Company dated May 11, 1994 by and between Max L. Fuller and Patrick E. Quinn.
*	10.1 Accounts Financing Agreement (Security Agreement) dated February 2, 1988, as amended, between Congress Financial Corp. (Southern) and Southwest Motor Freight, Inc.
*	10.2 Security Agreement dated December 18, 1985, as amended, by and between Exchange National Bank of Chicago and U.S. Xpress, Inc.
*	10.3 Security Agreement dated September 17, 1987, as amended, by and between Exchange National Bank of Chicago and Crown Transport Systems, Inc.
*	10.4 1993 Incentive Stock Plan of the Company.
*	10.5 Stock Option Agreement Under 1993 Incentive Stock Plan.
*	10.6 Stock Rights and Restrictions Agreement for Restricted Stock Award Under 1993 Incentive Stock Plan.
*	10.7 Self-Funded Employee Benefits Plan Document of the Company.
*	10.8 Service Agreement dated May 2, 1994 by and between TTC, Illinois, Inc. and the Company for the provision of leased personnel to the Company.
*	10.9 Salary Continuation Agreement dated June 10, 1993 by and between the Company and Max L. Fuller.
*	10.10 Salary Continuation Agreement dated June 10, 1993 by and between the Company and Patrick E. Quinn.
*	10.11 Stock Purchase Agreement dated November 28, 1990 by and between the Company and Clyde Fuller for the acquisition by the Company of the capital stock of Southwest Motor Freight, Inc. held by Mr. Fuller, such stock constituting all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Southwest Motor Freight, Inc.

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
*	10.12 Stock Purchase Agreement dated September 30, 1992 by and between the Company and Clyde Fuller for the acquisition by the Company of the capital stock of Chattanooga Leasing, Inc. held by Mr. Fuller, such stock constituting all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Chattanooga Leasing, Inc.
*	10.13 Articles of Merger and Plan of Merger filed February 24, 1993, pursuant to which Chattanooga Leasing, Inc. was merged with and into Southwest Motor Freight, Inc.
*	10.14 Stock Purchase Agreement dated January 1, 1993 by and among Max L. Fuller, Patrick E. Quinn and the Company for the acquisition by the Company of the capital stock of U.S. Xpress, Inc. held by Messrs. Fuller and Quinn, such stock constituting all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of U.S. Xpress, Inc.
*	10.15 Stock Purchase Agreement dated January 1, 1993 by and among Max L. Fuller, Patrick E. Quinn and the Company for the acquisition by the Company of the capital stock of U.S. Xpress Leasing, Inc. held by Messrs. Fuller and Quinn, such stock constituting all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of U.S. Xpress Leasing, Inc.
*	10.16 Stock Purchase Agreement dated March 10, 1994 by and between the Company and L.D. Miller, III for the acquisition by the Company of the capital stock of Crown Transport Systems, Inc. held by Mr. Miller, such stock constituting 40% of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Crown Transport Systems, Inc.
*	10.17 Stock Purchase Agreement dated March 17, 1994 by and between the Company, Patrick E. Quinn and Max L. Fuller for the acquisition by the Company of the capital stock of Crown Transport Systems, Inc. held by Messrs. Quinn and Fuller, such stock constituting 60% of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Crown Transport Systems, Inc.
*	10.18 Stock Purchase Agreement dated March 18, 1994 by and between the Company and Ken Adams for the acquisition by the Company of 50% of the capital stock of Hall Systems, Inc. held by Mr. Adams and the grant of an option to the Company to purchase the remaining 50% of the capital stock of Hall Systems, Inc. from Mr. Adams, exercisable beginning April 1, 1997.
***	10.19 Software Acquisition Agreement dated September 15, 1994 by and among Qualcomm Incorporated, Xpress Data Services, Inc., U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc., Patrick E. Quinn, Max L. Fuller, Information Management Solutions, Inc. and James Coppinger.
****	10.20 Stock Purchase Agreement dated October 31, 1994 by and between the Company and Ken Frohlich for the acquisition by the Company of the capital stock of National Freight Systems, Inc. held by Mr. Frohlich, such stock constituting all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of National Freight Systems, Inc.
*****	10.21 Asset Purchase Agreement with respect to acquisition of CSI/Reeves, Inc.
*****	10.22 Stock Purchase Agreement with respect to Hall Systems, Inc.
*****	10.23 Credit Agreement with NationsBank.

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
-----	-----
*****	10.24 Amendment No. 1 to Credit Agreement with NationsBank.
*****	10.25 Asset Purchase Agreement dated June 18, 1996 with respect to acquisition of Michael Lima Transportation, Inc.
*****	10.26 Asset Purchase Agreement dated April 1, 1997 with respect to acquisition of assets from Rosedale Transport, Inc. and Rosedale Transport, Ltd.
*****	10.27 Asset Purchase Agreement dated April 25, 1997 with respect to acquisition of JTI, Inc.
*****	10.28 Loan and Security Agreement dated June 24, 1997 by and between Wachovia Bank, N.A. and U.S. Xpress Leasing.
*****	10.29 Stock Purchase Agreement dated as of December 24, 1997 by and between U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc. and Richard H. Schaffer, Richard H. Schaffer Irrevocable Trust dated December 24, 1991 and Richard H. Schaffer Irrevocable Non-Withdrawal Trust dated December 24, 1991.
*****	10.30 Credit Agreement dated as of January 15, 1998 among U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc., Wachovia Bank, N.A., NationsBank, N.A., BankBoston, N.A., SunTrust Bank, Chattanooga, N.A. and the banks listed therein.
	22 List of the current subsidiaries of the Company.
	23 Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP, Independent Public Accountants.
	27 Financial Data Schedule
-----	-----
*	Filed in Registration Statement on Form S-1 dated May 20, 1994. (SEC File No. 33-79208)
***	Filed in Pre-Effective Amendment No. 2 to Registration Statement on Form S-1 dated October 4, 1994. (SEC File No. 33-79208)
****	Filed in Form 10-Q dated November 17, 1994
*****	Filed in Form 10-Q dated November 10, 1995
*****	Filed in Form 10-Q dated February 13, 1996
*****	Filed in Form 10-Q dated November 14, 1996
*****	Filed in Form 10-K dated March 31, 1997
*****	Filed in Registration Statement Form S-1 dated August 19, 1997.
*****	Filed in Form 8-K dated January 29, 1998

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, on the thirtieth day of March, 1998.

### U.S. XPRESS ENTERPRISES, INC.

Date: March 30, 1998  
-----

By: /s/ Ray M. Harlin  
-----

Ray M. Harlin  
Chief Financial Officer

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

SIGNATURE -----	TITLE -----	DATE ----
/s/ Patrick E. Quinn ----- Patrick E. Quinn	Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Treasurer	March 30, 1998
/s/ Max L. Fuller ----- Max L. Fuller	Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors, Vice President and Secretary	March 30, 1998
/s/ Ray M. Harlin ----- Ray M. Harlin	Executive Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer (principal financial and accounting officer)	March 30, 1998
/s/ E. William Lusk, Jr. ----- E. William Lusk, Jr.	Director and Executive Vice President of Marketing	March 30, 1998
/s/ William K. Farris ----- William K. Farris	Director and Executive Vice President of Operations	March 30, 1998
/s/ A. Alexander Taylor, II ----- A. Alexander Taylor, II	Director	March 30, 1998
/s/ James B. Baker ----- James B. Baker	Director	March 30, 1998

**EXHIBIT 22**

**SUBSIDIARIES OF U.S. XPRESS ENTERPRISES, INC.  
FOR NINE-MONTH TRANSITION PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1997**

U.S. Xpress, Inc.  
CSI/Crown, Inc.  
JTI, Inc.  
U.S. Xpress Leasing, Inc.

Xpress Air, Inc.

## EXHIBIT 23

### CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

As independent public accountants, we hereby consent to the incorporation of our reports included (or incorporated by reference) in this Form 10-K into the Company's previously filed Registration Statements on Form S-8 (File No. 33- 91238, File No. 33-94878, File No. 33-99728 and File No. 333-37795).

*/S/ ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP*

*Chattanooga, Tennessee*

*March 27, 1998*

**ARTICLE 5**

MULTIPLIER: 1,000

PERIOD TYPE	3 MOS	9 MOS
FISCAL YEAR END	DEC 31 1997	DEC 31 1997
PERIOD START	APR 01 1997	APR 01 1997
PERIOD END	DEC 31 1997	DEC 31 1997
CASH	2,734	0
SECURITIES	0	0
RECEIVABLES	67,581	0
ALLOWANCES	0	0
INVENTORY	4,213	0
CURRENT ASSETS	79,616	0
PP&E	180,399	0
DEPRECIATION	44,344	0
TOTAL ASSETS	233,777	0
CURRENT LIABILITIES	34,803	0
BONDS	52,120 <sup>1</sup>	0 <sup>1</sup>
PREFERRED MANDATORY	0	0
PREFERRED	0	0
COMMON	150	0
OTHER SE	128,343	0
TOTAL LIABILITY AND EQUITY	233,777	0
SALES	118,961	342,272
TOTAL REVENUES	0	0
CGS	0	0
TOTAL COSTS	109,707	316,146
OTHER EXPENSES	(8)	(25)
LOSS PROVISION	233	861
INTEREST EXPENSE	1,042	4,168
INCOME PRETAX	8,220	21,983
INCOME TAX	3,286	8,792
INCOME CONTINUING	0	0
DISCONTINUED	0	0
EXTRAORDINARY	0	0
CHANGES	0	0
NET INCOME	4,934	13,191
EPS PRIMARY	0	0
EPS DILUTED	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Long Term Debt**End of Filing**Powered By **EDGAR**  
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