

Consolidated Financial Statements of

# **ROGERS SUGAR INC.**

Fiscal years ended September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023



**KPMG LLP**

Tour KPMG  
600 de Maisonneuve Blvd West, Suite 1500  
Montréal, QC H3A 0A3  
Canada  
Telephone 514 840 2100  
Fax 514 840 2187

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Shareholders of Rogers Sugar Inc.

***Opinion***

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Rogers Sugar Inc. (the "Entity"), which comprise:

- the consolidated statements of financial position as at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023
- the consolidated statements of earnings and comprehensive income for the years then ended
- the consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' equity for the years then ended
- the consolidated statements of cash flows for the years then ended
- and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policy information

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Entity as at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023, and its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***" section of our auditor's report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements for the year ended September 28, 2024. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. We have determined the matters described below to be the key audit matters to be communicated in our auditor's report.

***The determination and allocation of costs to the Sugar segment work in progress and finished goods inventory***

**Description of the matter**

As described in note 8 to the consolidated financial statements, the Entity reported work in progress and finished goods inventory of \$15.4 million \$75.5 million, respectively, a portion of which related to the Sugar segment. As described in note 3 (e) to the financial statements, the cost of inventories is determined on a first-in, first-out basis and includes expenditures incurred in acquiring the inventories, production or conversion costs and other costs incurred in bringing them to their existing location and condition. In the case of manufactured finished goods inventories and work in progress, cost also includes an appropriate share of production overheads.

**Why the matter is a key audit matter**

We identified the determination and allocation of costs to the Sugar segment work in progress and finished goods inventory as a key audit matter. This matter represented an area of higher assessed risk of misstatement given the magnitude of work in progress and finished goods inventory and the nature and extent of effort needed to address this matter.



**How the matter was addressed in the audit**

The primary procedures we performed to address this key audit matter included the following:

- Developed an independent expectation of variable and fixed cost per metric ton based primarily on the prior year cost, key cost drivers and market data and compared this expectation to actual variable and fixed cost per metric ton recorded by management.
- Examined a sample of raw sugar cost per metric ton and agreed it to supplier invoices.
- Developed an independent expectation of the cost of work in progress and finished goods inventory based on the above noted cost per metric ton, the stage of completion and year-end metric tons on hand and compared this expectation to actual cost of work in progress and finished goods inventory recorded by management.

**Other Information**

Management is responsible for the other information. Other information comprises:

- the information included in Management's Discussion and Analysis filed with the relevant Canadian Securities Commissions.
- the information, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, included in a document likely to be entitled "2024 Annual Report".

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not and will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit and remain alert for indications that the other information appears to be materially misstated.



Page 4

We obtained the information included in Management's Discussion and Analysis filed with the relevant Canadian Securities Commissions as at the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we have performed on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact in the auditor's report.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

The information, other than the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, included in a document likely to be entitled "2024 Annual Report" is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report. If, based on the work we will perform on this other information, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact to those charged with governance.

***Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.



Page 5

We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Page 6

- Provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group Entity to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.
- Determine, from the matters communicated with those charged with governance, those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our auditor's report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this auditor's report is Aaron Fima.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP' with a horizontal line underneath.

Montréal, Canada

November 27, 2024

\*CPA auditor, public accountancy permit No. A125211

**Consolidated statements of earnings and comprehensive income**

(In thousands of dollars except per share amounts)

Consolidated statements of earnings	Fiscal year ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
Revenues (note 32)	1,231,763	1,104,713
Cost of sales	1,055,891	938,987
Gross margin	175,872	165,726
Administration and selling expenses	51,931	44,229
Distribution expenses	26,732	26,534
	78,663	70,763
Results from operating activities	97,209	94,963
Net finance costs (note 5)	23,783	24,577
Earnings before income taxes	73,426	70,386
Income tax expense (recovery) (note 6):		
Current	15,496	14,676
Deferred	4,201	3,921
	19,697	18,597
Net earnings	53,729	51,789
Net earnings per share (note 27):		
Basic	0.45	0.50
Diluted	0.41	0.44

Consolidated statements of comprehensive income	Fiscal year ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
Net earnings	53,729	51,789
Other comprehensive income:		
Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to net earnings:		
Cash flow hedges (note 9)	(15,873)	(16,994)
Income tax on cash flow hedges (note 6)	4,074	4,362
Foreign currency translation differences	23	(456)
	(11,776)	(13,088)
Items that will not be reclassified to net earnings:		
Defined benefit actuarial gains (note 20)	4,477	14,530
Income tax on defined benefit actuarial gains (note 6)	(1,148)	(3,708)
	3,329	10,822
Other comprehensive income (loss)	(8,447)	(2,266)
Comprehensive income	45,282	49,523

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



**Consolidated statements of financial position**

(In thousands of dollars)

<b>Assets</b>	<b>September 28, 2024</b>	September 30, 2023
Current assets:		
Cash	19,121	46
Trade and other receivables (note 7)	120,795	118,252
Income taxes receivable	1,526	2,280
Inventories (note 8)	290,299	267,268
Prepaid expenses	8,089	8,912
Derivative financial instruments (note 9)	3,530	5,019
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>443,360</b>	<b>401,777</b>
Non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment (note 10)	333,120	267,185
Right-of-use assets (note 11)	27,494	29,973
Intangible assets (notes 12 and 15)	17,436	20,890
Other assets (note 13)	1,072	783
Derivative financial instruments (note 9)	66	7,286
Employee benefits (note 20)	23,189	-
Goodwill (note 15)	233,007	233,007
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>635,384</b>	<b>559,124</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,078,744</b>	<b>960,901</b>
<b>Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Revolving credit facility (note 16)	-	58,000
Trade and other payables (note 17)	195,461	164,404
Provisions (note 18)	5,585	1,415
Lease obligations (note 19)	5,194	4,364
Convertible unsecured subordinated debentures (note 21)	153,830	-
Derivative financial instruments (note 9)	209	1,140
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>360,279</b>	<b>229,323</b>
Non-current liabilities:		
Revolving credit facility (note 16)	100,000	100,000
Employee benefits (note 20)	19,665	2,898
Provisions (note 18)	2,881	287
Derivative financial instruments (note 9)	6,391	-
Lease obligations (note 19)	23,448	26,086
Convertible unsecured subordinated debentures (note 21)	-	151,711
Senior guaranteed notes (note 22)	98,409	98,212
Deferred tax liabilities (note 14)	45,258	45,488
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>296,052</b>	<b>424,683</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>656,331</b>	<b>654,005</b>
Shareholders' equity:		
Share capital (note 23)	221,340	107,210
Contributed surplus	301,069	300,968
Equity portion of convertible unsecured subordinated debentures (note 21)	5,085	5,085
Deficit	(136,902)	(146,635)
Accumulated other comprehensive income	31,821	40,268
<b>Total shareholders' equity</b>	<b>422,413</b>	<b>306,896</b>
Commitments (notes 19 and 25)		
Contingencies (note 26)		
<b>Total liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>	<b>1,078,744</b>	<b>960,901</b>

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

**Consolidated statements of changes in shareholders' equity**

(In thousands of dollars except number of shares)

	For the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024								
	Number of shares	Common shares	Contributed surplus	Equity portion of convertible debentures	Accumulated unrealized gain (loss) on employee benefit plans	Accumulated cash flow hedge gain	Accumulated foreign currency translation differences	Deficit	Total
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance, September 30, 2023	105,096,120	107,210	300,968	5,085	31,695	7,484	1,089	(146,635)	306,896
Net earnings for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,729	53,729
Dividends (note 23)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(43,996)	(43,996)
Issuance of shares (note 23)	22,820,714	114,130	(10)	-	-	-	-	-	114,120
Share-based compensation (note 24)	-	-	111	-	-	-	-	-	111
Cash flow hedges, net of tax (note 9)	-	-	-	-	-	(11,799)	-	-	(11,799)
Defined benefit actuarial gains, net of tax (note 20)	-	-	-	-	3,329	-	-	-	3,329
Translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	23
<b>Balance, September 28, 2024</b>	<b>127,916,834</b>	<b>221,340</b>	<b>301,069</b>	<b>5,085</b>	<b>35,024</b>	<b>(4,315)</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>(136,902)</b>	<b>422,413</b>

	For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023								
	Number of shares	Common shares	Contributed surplus	Equity portion of convertible debentures	Accumulated unrealized gain (loss) on employee benefit plans	Accumulated cash flow hedge gain	Accumulated foreign currency translation differences	Deficit	Total
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance, October 1, 2022	104,372,045	103,550	300,922	5,085	20,873	20,116	1,545	(160,672)	291,419
Net earnings for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,789	51,789
Dividends (note 23)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(37,752)	(37,752)
Issuance of shares (note 23)	724,075	3,660	(132)	-	-	-	-	-	3,528
Share-based compensation (note 24)	-	-	178	-	-	-	-	-	178
Cash flow hedges, net of tax (note 9)	-	-	-	-	-	(12,632)	-	-	(12,632)
Defined benefit actuarial gains, net of tax (note 20)	-	-	-	-	10,822	-	-	-	10,822
Translation of foreign operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	(456)	-	(456)
<b>Balance, September 30, 2023</b>	<b>105,096,120</b>	<b>107,210</b>	<b>300,968</b>	<b>5,085</b>	<b>31,695</b>	<b>7,484</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>(146,635)</b>	<b>306,896</b>

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

**Consolidated statements of cash flows**

(In thousands of dollars)

	<b>For the fiscal years ended</b>	
	<b>September 28, 2024</b>	<b>September 30, 2023</b>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net earnings	53,729	51,789
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and right-of-use assets (note 4)	25,055	22,480
Amortization of intangible assets (note 4)	3,788	3,806
Changes in fair value of derivative financial instruments included in cost of sales	(3,557)	(6,210)
Income tax expense (note 6)	19,697	18,597
Pension contributions	(10,835)	(11,085)
Pension expense	8,890	9,984
Net finance costs (note 5)	23,783	24,577
Loss (gain) on disposal of property, plant and equipment and right-of-use assets (notes 10 and 11)	(8)	139
Share-based compensation - equity settled (note 24)	111	178
Share-based compensation - cash settled (note 24)	1,003	3
	<b>121,656</b>	<b>114,258</b>
Changes in:		
Trade and other receivables	(2,549)	1,879
Inventories	(23,068)	(20,778)
Prepaid expenses	823	(44)
Trade and other payables	17,128	(14,612)
Provisions (note 18)	(2,906)	(1,484)
	<b>(10,572)</b>	<b>(35,039)</b>
Cash generated from operating activities:	<b>111,084</b>	<b>79,219</b>
Interest paid	(16,553)	(21,049)
Income taxes paid	(14,741)	(13,852)
Net cash flows from operating activities	<b>79,790</b>	<b>44,318</b>
Cash flows from (used in) financing activities:		
Dividends paid	(41,942)	(37,687)
Increase (decrease) in revolving credit facility (note 16)	(58,000)	32,000
Payment of lease obligations (note 19)	(6,700)	(5,419)
Issuance of shares (note 23)	112,652	3,528
Payment of financing fees	(646)	(1,308)
Net cash flows from (used in) financing activities	<b>5,364</b>	<b>(8,886)</b>
Cash flows used in investing activities:		
Additions to property, plant and equipment, net of proceeds on disposal	(65,907)	(34,966)
Additions to intangible assets (note 12)	(168)	(432)
Net cash flows used in investing activities	<b>(66,075)</b>	<b>(35,398)</b>
Effect of changes in exchange rate on cash	(4)	(139)
Net increase (decrease) in cash	<b>19,075</b>	<b>(105)</b>
Cash, beginning of year	<b>46</b>	<b>151</b>
Cash, end of year	<b>19,121</b>	<b>46</b>

Supplemental cash flow information (note 28).

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

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

### 1. Reporting entity:

Rogers Sugar Inc. ("Rogers" or the "Company") is a company domiciled in Canada, incorporated under the Canada Business Corporations Act. The head office of Rogers is located at 123 Rogers Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 3V2. The consolidated financial statements of Rogers as at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023 comprise Rogers and the directly and indirectly controlled subsidiaries, Lantic Inc. ("Lantic") and The Maple Treat Corporation ("TMTC"), (together referred to as the "Company"). The principal business activities of the Company are the refining, packaging and marketing of sugar ("Sugar segment"), and the packaging, marketing and distribution of maple syrup and other related maple products ("Maple segment").

The Company's fiscal year ends on the Saturday closest to the end of September. All references to 2024 and 2023 represent the years ended September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023.

### 2. Basis of preparation:

#### (A) STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards ("IFRS") as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB").

These consolidated financial statements were authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on November 27, 2024.

#### (B) BASIS OF MEASUREMENT:

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for the following material items in the consolidated statements of financial position:

- (i) derivative financial instruments are measured at fair value;
- (ii) equity-settled share-based compensation, cash-settled share appreciation rights and cash-settled performance share units are measured at fair value;
- (iii) the defined benefit liability is recognized as the net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation less the total of the fair value of the plan assets and the unrecognized past service costs;
- (iv) assets acquired and liabilities assumed in business combinations are measured at fair value at acquisition date, less any subsequent impairment, if applicable; and
- (v) lease obligations which are measured at the present value of minimum lease liabilities in accordance with IFRS 16 *Leases*.

#### (C) FUNCTIONAL AND PRESENTATION CURRENCY:

These consolidated financial statements are presented in Canadian dollars, since it is the Company's functional currency. All financial information presented in Canadian dollars has been rounded to the nearest thousands, except as noted and per share amounts.

#### (D) USE OF ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS:

The preparation of these consolidated financial statements, in conformity with IFRS, requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about future events that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting years.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies:

(A) BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION:

The consolidated financial statements include Rogers and the subsidiary it controls, Lantic and its subsidiaries, TMTC and Highland Sugarworks Inc. (the latter two companies together referred to as "TMTC").

Control exists where the Company is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date control commences until the date that control ceases. The accounting policies of subsidiaries are aligned with the policies adopted by the Company.

The Company owns 100% of the common shares and 100% of the Class A shares of Lantic. Lantic Capital Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Belkorp Industries Inc., owns the two outstanding Class C shares of Lantic. These Class C shares are non-voting, have no rights to return or risk of loss and are redeemable for a nominal value of one dollar each. The Class C shares entitle the holder to elect five of the seven directors of Lantic but have no other voting rights at any meetings of Lantic's shareholders except as may be required by law.

Notwithstanding Lantic Capital Inc.'s ability to elect five of the seven directors of Lantic, Lantic Capital Inc. receives no benefits or exposure to losses from its ownership of the Class C shares. As the Class C shares are non-dividend paying and redeemable for a nominal value of one dollar, there is no participation in future dividends or changes in value of Lantic resulting from the ownership of the Class C shares. There is also no management fee or other form of consideration attributable to the Class C shares. The determination of control involves judgement. Based on all the facts and available information, management has concluded that Rogers has control of Lantic.

Inter-company balances and transactions, and any unrealized income and expenses arising from inter-company transactions, are eliminated in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

(B) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS:

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are translated into the functional currency at the exchange rate in effect at that date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are measured at fair value are translated at the rate prevailing at the date that the fair value was determined. Foreign denominated non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured at the historical costs are translated at the rate prevailing at the transaction date. Revenues and expenses denominated in foreign currencies are translated into the functional currency at the rate in effect on the dates they occur. Gains or losses resulting from these translations are recorded in net earnings of the period.

(C) FOREIGN OPERATIONS:

The assets and liabilities of foreign operations, including goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on business combinations, are translated to Canadian dollars at exchange rates at the reporting date. The income and expenses of foreign operations are translated to Canadian dollars at the average exchange rate in effect during the reporting period.

Foreign currency differences are recognized in other comprehensive income (loss) in the accumulated foreign currency translation differences account. When a foreign operation is disposed of in its entirety or partially such that control, significant influence or joint control is lost, the cumulative amount in the translation reserve related to that foreign operation is reclassified to profit or loss as part of the gain or loss on disposal.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(D) CASH:

Cash includes cash on hand, bank balances and bank overdraft when the latter forms an integral part of the Company's cash management.

(E) INVENTORIES:

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realizable value. The cost of inventories is determined on a first-in, first-out basis and includes expenditures incurred in acquiring the inventories, production or conversion costs and other costs incurred in bringing them to their existing location and condition. In the case of manufactured inventories and work in progress, cost includes an appropriate share of production overheads based on normal operating capacity.

Net realizable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated costs of completion and selling expenses.

(F) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:

Property, plant and equipment, with the exception of land, are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Land is carried at cost and is not depreciated.

Cost includes expenditures that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset less any government grants received for capital expenditures. The cost of assets includes the cost of materials and direct labour, any other costs directly attributable to bringing the assets to a working condition for their intended use, the costs of dismantling and removing the items and restoring the site on which they are located, and borrowing costs on qualifying assets. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalized as part of that equipment. When significant parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment. Construction-in-progress assets are capitalized during construction and depreciation commences when the asset is available for use.

The cost of replacing a part of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognized in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the Company and its cost can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognized. The costs of the day-to-day servicing of property, plant and equipment are recognized in profit or loss as incurred.

Gains and losses on disposal of items of property, plant and equipment are determined by comparing the proceeds from disposal with the carrying amount of the property, plant and equipment and are recognized in cost of sales for assets used in production and in administration and selling expenses for all other assets.

Depreciation related to assets used in production is recorded in cost of sales while the depreciation of all other assets is recorded in administration and selling expenses. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis, after taking into account residual values, over the estimated useful lives of each component of an item of property, plant and equipment, since this most closely reflects the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits embodied in the asset. Significant components of individual assets are assessed and, if a component has a useful life that is different from the remainder of that asset, then that component is depreciated separately.

The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Barrels	6 years
Buildings	20 to 60 years
Furniture and fixtures	3 to 10 years
Machinery and equipment	5 to 40 years

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each financial year-end and depreciation is adjusted on a prospective basis, if necessary.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(G) INTANGIBLE ASSETS:

(i) Goodwill:

Goodwill is measured at the acquisition date as the fair value of the consideration transferred less the fair value of the net identifiable assets of the acquired company or business activities. Goodwill is not amortized and is carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired.

(ii) Other intangible assets:

Intangible assets that are acquired by the Company and have finite useful lives are initially measured at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are measured at cost less accumulated amortization and accumulated impairment losses. Subsequent expenditures are capitalized only when they increase the future economic benefits embodied in the specific asset to which it relates. Amortization is calculated over the cost of the asset, less its residual value. Amortization is recognized in administrative expenses on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the intangible assets from the date that they are available for use, since this most closely reflects the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits embodied in the asset. Amortization of intangible assets not in service begins when they are ready for their intended use. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Software	5 to 15 years
Customer relationships	10 years
Other	10 years

Brand names are not amortized as they are considered to have an indefinite life and are tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the asset might be impaired.

For intangible assets with finite life, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each financial year-end and amortization is adjusted on a prospective basis, if necessary.

(H) LEASES:

The Company recognizes a right-of-use asset and a lease liability based on the present value of future lease payments when the leased asset is available for use by the Company. The lease payments include fixed and in-substance fixed payments and variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, less any lease incentives receivable. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or the lessee's incremental borrowing rate. The Company uses their incremental borrowing rate for its present value calculations. Lease payments are discounted over the lease term, which includes the fixed term and renewal options that the Company is reasonably certain to exercise. Lease payments are allocated between the lease liability and a finance cost, which is recognized in finance costs over the lease term in the consolidated statement of earnings.

Lease payments for assets that are exempt through the short-term exemption and variable payments not based on an index or rate are recognized in administration and selling expenses or distribution expenses as incurred.

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses, and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liabilities. Cost is calculated as the initial measurement of the lease liability plus any initial direct costs and any lease payments made at or before the commencement date. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life.

(I) IMPAIRMENT:

The carrying amounts of the Company's non-financial assets, other than inventories and deferred tax assets, are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. For goodwill, and intangible assets that have indefinite useful lives, the recoverable amount is estimated yearly at the same time, at year-end, and whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(I) IMPAIRMENT: (CONTINUED)

For the purpose of impairment testing, assets that cannot be tested individually are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets or groups of assets (the "cash-generating unit", or "CGU").

The Company's corporate assets do not generate cash inflows. If there is an indication that a corporate asset may be impaired, then the recoverable amount is determined for the CGU to which the corporate asset belongs.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. An impairment loss is recognized if the carrying amount of an asset or its CGU exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognized in profit or loss. Impairment losses recognized in respect of a CGU are allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the CGU, and then to reduce the carrying amount of the other assets in the CGU.

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset or group of assets. Fair value less costs to sell (the "FVLCS") is the estimated amount obtainable from the sale of the CGU in an arm's-length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties, less the costs of disposal. In assessing the fair value less cost to sell, the market approach is used which incorporates comparable transaction multiples applied to adjusted EBITDA less an estimate of the cost to sell to derive a range of the FVLCS.

An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed. In respect of other assets, impairment losses recognized in prior years are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortization, if no impairment loss had been recognized.

(J) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

(i) Pension benefit plans:

The Company provides post-employment benefits through defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The Company also sponsors Supplemental Executive Retirement Plans ("SERP"), which are neither registered nor pre-funded. Finally, the Company sponsors defined benefit life insurance, disability plans and medical benefits for some retirees and employees.

*Defined contribution plans*

The Company's obligations for contributions to employee defined contribution pension plans are recognized as employee benefit expense in profit or loss in the years during which services are rendered by employees.

*Defined benefit plans*

The Company maintains some contributory defined benefit plans that provide for pensions to employees based on years of service and the employee's compensation. The Company's net obligation in respect of defined benefit plans is calculated separately for each plan by estimating the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in the current and prior years, discounting that amount and deducting the fair value of any plan assets. The discount rate is the yield at the reporting date on AA credit-rated bonds that have maturity dates approximating the terms of the Company's obligations and that are denominated in the same currency in which the benefits are expected to be paid.

The calculation of defined benefit obligations is performed annually by a qualified actuary using the projected unit credit method. When the calculation results in a potential asset for the Company, the recognized asset is limited to the present value of economic benefits available in the form of any future refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan. To calculate the present value of economic benefits, consideration is given to any applicable minimum funding requirements.

Re-measurements of the net defined benefit liability, which comprise actuarial gains and losses, the return on plan assets (excluding interest) and the effect of the asset ceiling (if any, excluding interest), are recognized immediately in other comprehensive income (loss). The Company determines the net interest expense (income) on the net defined benefit liability (asset) for the period by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the annual period to the then-net defined benefit liability (asset), taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contributions and benefit payments. Net interest expense and other expenses related to defined benefit plans are recognized in profit or loss.



Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(J) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: (CONTINUED)

(i) Pension benefit plans: (continued)

When the benefits of a plan are changed or when a plan is curtailed, the resulting change in benefit that relates to past service or the gain or loss on curtailment is recognized immediately in profit or loss. Costs related to plan settlements are recorded at the time the Company is committed to a settlement as a separate constructive obligation. Subsequent to the Company being committed to a settlement, the plan liability is measured at the expected settlement amount using settlement interest rates.

(ii) Short-term employee benefits:

Short-term employee benefit obligations are measured on an undiscounted basis and are expensed as the related service is provided. A liability is recognized for the amount expected to be paid under cash incentive if the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay the amount as a result of past service provided by the employee, and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

(iii) Share-based compensation:

The Company has a Share Option Plan. Share-based payment awards are measured at fair value at the grant date, which is recognized as a personnel expense, with a corresponding increase in contributed surplus over the vesting period, which is normally five years. The amount recognized as an expense is adjusted to reflect the number of awards for which the related service conditions are expected to be met. Any consideration paid by employees on exercise of share options is credited to share capital.

(iv) Employee share purchase plan:

The Company has an Employee Share Purchase Plan that is an equity-settled share-based payment with employees; the measurement is based on the grant-date fair value of the equity instrument granted. As such, the expense is recognized when the employee purchases the shares.

(v) Cash-settled Performance Share Units:

The Company has a Performance Share Units plan ("PSU") entitling certain senior personnel and executives to a cash payment. A liability is recognized in payables for the services acquired and is recorded at fair value based on the share price of the Company's Common Shares with a corresponding expense recognized in administration and selling expenses. The amount recognized as an expense is adjusted to reflect the number of units for which the related service and performance conditions are expected to be met, such that the amount ultimately recognized as an expense is based on the units of awards that do meet the related service and non-market performance conditions at the vesting date.

At the end of each reporting period until the liability is settled, the fair value of the liability is re-measured, with any changes in fair value recognized in the consolidated statement of earnings. The fair value of the employee benefits expense of the PSUs is measured using management's best estimate which includes a Monte Carlo pricing model.

(vi) Termination benefits:

Termination benefits are expensed at the earlier of when the Company can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits and when the Company recognizes costs for a restructuring. If benefits are not expected to be fully settled within 12 months of the end of the reporting period, they are discounted.

(K) PROVISIONS:

A provision is recognized if, as a result of a past event, the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation that can be estimated reliably, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognized as finance costs.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(K) PROVISIONS: (CONTINUED)

The Company recognizes the estimated liability for future costs to be incurred in the remediation of site restoration in regards to asbestos removal and disposal of such asbestos to a landfill for hazardous waste, and for oil, chemical and other hazardous materials, only when a present legal or constructive obligation has been determined and that such obligation can be estimated reliably. Upon initial recognition of the obligation, the corresponding costs are added to the carrying amount of the related items of property, plant and equipment and amortized as an expense over the economic life of the asset, or earlier if a specific plan of removal exists. This obligation is reduced every year by payments incurred during the year in relation to these items. The obligation might be increased by any required remediation to the owned assets that would be required through enacted legislation.

(L) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS:

(i) IFRS 9, Financial Instruments:

The Company initially recognizes trade receivables when they are originated and other financial instruments on the trade date at which the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value except for trade receivables without a financing component which are initially measured at the transaction price. In the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial asset or financial liability are added to or deducted from the fair value.

(ii) Financial assets:

Financial assets are classified into the following categories:

a. Financial assets measured at amortized cost:

A financial asset is subsequently measured at amortized cost, using the effective interest method and net of any impairment loss, if:

- the asset is held within a business model whose objectives is to hold assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise, on specified dates, to cash flows that are solely payments of principals and/or interest.

The Company derecognizes a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows on the financial asset in a transaction in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred.

The Company recognizes loss allowances for expected credit losses on financial assets measured at amortized cost.

The Company uses historical trends of the probability of default, the timing of recoveries and the amount of loss incurred, adjusted for management's judgement as to whether current economic and credit conditions are such that the actual losses are likely to be greater or less than suggested by historical trends.

An impairment loss in respect of a financial asset measured at amortized cost is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Losses are recognized in income or loss and reflected in an allowance account against trade and other receivables.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(L) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: (CONTINUED)

(ii) Financial assets: (continued)

b. Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss:

These assets are measured at fair value through profit or loss and changes therein, including any interest are recognized in profit or loss. The Company currently has no significant financial assets measured at fair value, except for derivative financial instruments.

(iii) Financial liabilities:

Financial liabilities are classified into the following categories:

a. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost:

Financial liability subsequently measured at amortized cost, is accounted for using the effective interest method.

b. Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss:

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognized at fair value and are re-measured at each reporting date with any changes therein recognized in net earnings. The Company currently has no significant financial liabilities measured at fair value except for derivative financial instruments.

The Company derecognizes a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled or expired.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is presented in the consolidated statements of financial position when, and only when, the Company has a legal right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

(iv) Fair values of financial instruments:

Financial assets and liabilities measured at fair value use a fair value hierarchy to prioritize the inputs used in measuring fair value as follows:

Level 1 - valuation based on observable inputs such as quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 - valuation techniques based on inputs that are other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (prices) or indirectly (derived from prices); and

Level 3 - valuation techniques with observable market inputs (involves assumptions and estimates by management of how market participants would price the asset or liability).

a. Cash:

Cash includes cash on hand, bank balances and bank overdraft when the latter forms an integral part of the Company's cash management.

b. Derivative financial instruments:

The Company uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to changes in raw sugar, foreign exchange, and natural gas prices. In addition, the Company entered into interest rate swap contracts to fix a portion of the Company's exposure to floating interest rate debt on its short-term borrowings. The Company's objective for holding derivatives is to minimize risk using the most efficient methods to eliminate or reduce the impacts of these exposures.

Fair value estimates are made as of a specific point in time, using available information about the financial instruments. These estimates are subjective in nature and may not be determined with precision.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(L) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: (CONTINUED)

(iv) Fair values of financial instruments: (continued)

b. Derivative financial instruments: (continued)

The fair value of derivative instruments is the estimated amount that the Company would receive or pay to terminate the instruments at the reporting date. The fair values have been determined by reference to prices available from the markets on which the instruments trade, subject to credit adjustments as applicable. The fair values of the sugar future contracts and options are measured using Level 1 inputs, using published quoted values for these commodities. The fair values for the natural gas futures contracts, foreign exchange forward contracts and interest rate swap contracts are measured using Level 2 inputs. The fair values for these derivative assets or liabilities are estimated using industry standard valuation models.

Where applicable, these models project future cash flows and discount the future amounts to a present value using market-based observable inputs including interest rate curves, credit spreads, natural gas prices, foreign exchange rates, and forward and spot prices for currencies.

The fair values of all derivative instruments approximate their carrying value and are recorded as separate line items on the consolidated statements of financial position.

The Company's natural gas futures and interest rate swap agreements (September 30, 2023 – a portion of its interest rate swap agreements) were designated as cash flow hedges and qualified for hedge accounting.

For sugar futures contracts, the amounts are netted with the variation margins paid or received to/from brokers at the end of the reporting period.

c. Compound financial instruments:

The Company's convertible unsecured subordinated debentures are accounted for as compound financial instruments. The liability component of a compound financial instrument is recognized initially at the fair value of a similar liability that does not have an equity conversion option. The equity component is recognized initially as the difference between the fair value of the compound financial instrument as a whole and the fair value of the liability component. Any directly attributable transaction costs are allocated to the liability and equity components in proportion to their initial carrying amounts.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the liability component of a compound financial instrument is measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method. The equity component of a compound financial instrument is not re-measured subsequent to initial recognition. Interest, dividends, gains and losses relating to the financial liability are recognized in profit or loss.

d. Financing charges:

Financing charges, which reflect the cost to obtain new financing, are offset against the debt for which they were incurred and recognized in finance costs using the effective interest method. Financing charges for the revolving credit facility are recorded with other assets.

e. Share capital:

Common shares

Common shares are classified as equity. Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of common shares are recognized as a deduction from equity, net of any tax effects. Dividends to the equity holders are recorded in equity.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(L) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: (CONTINUED)

(v) Cash flow hedges:

When a derivative is designated as the hedging instrument in a hedge of the variability in cash flows attributable to a particular risk associated with a recognized asset or liability or a highly probable forecasted transaction that could affect net earnings, the effective portion of changes in the fair value of the derivative is recognized in other comprehensive income and presented in accumulated other comprehensive income as part of equity.

The amount recognized in other comprehensive income is removed and included in net earnings under the same line item in the consolidated statements of earnings and comprehensive income as the hedged item, in the same period that the hedged cash flows affect net earnings.

If the hedging instrument no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, expires or is sold, terminated, or exercised, the hedge accounting is discontinued prospectively.

If the forecasted transaction is no longer expected to occur, then the balance in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) is recognized immediately in net earnings.

When the hedged item is a non-financial asset, the amount recognized in other comprehensive income is transferred to net earnings (loss) in the same period that the hedged item affects net earnings.

The Company has designated as cash flow hedges its natural gas futures and its interest rate swap agreements (September 30, 2023 – a portion of its interest rate swap agreements) entered into in order to protect itself against natural gas price and interest rate fluctuations.

(M) REVENUE RECOGNITION:

The Company derives revenue from the sale of finished goods, which include sugar, maple syrup and other related maple products. The Company recognizes revenue when all performance obligations have been met which is generally at a point in time when it transfers control of the finished goods to a customer, which occurs upon shipment of the finished goods from the Company's facilities or upon delivery of the finished goods to the customer's premises. Some arrangements for the sale of finished goods provide for customer price discounts and/or volume rebates based on aggregate sales over a specified period, which gives rise to variable consideration. At the time of sale, estimates are made for items giving rise to variable consideration based on the terms of the sales program or arrangement.

The estimate is based on historical experience, current trends, and other known factors. Sales are recorded net of customer discounts, rebates, and exclude sales taxes.

(N) FINANCE INCOME AND FINANCE COSTS:

Finance income comprises interest income on funds invested and finance costs comprise interest expense on borrowings. Changes in the fair value of interest rate swaps are recorded initially in other comprehensive income since inception of the cash flow hedge and transferred to finance income and finance costs in the same period that the hedged cash flows affect net earnings. Net change in fair value of interest rate swap that do not meet hedge accounting is recognized in net finance costs. Interest expense is recorded using the effective interest method.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

(O) INCOME TAXES:

Income tax expense comprises current and deferred taxes. Current tax and deferred tax are recognized in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to a business combination, or items recognized directly in equity or in other comprehensive income (loss).

Current tax is the expected tax payable or recoverable on the taxable income or loss for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to taxes payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred taxes are recognized in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. Deferred taxes are not recognized for the following temporary differences: the initial recognition of assets or liabilities in a transaction that is not a business combination and that affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss, and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries and jointly controlled entities to the extent that it is probable that they will not reverse in the foreseeable future. In addition, deferred taxes are not recognized for taxable temporary differences arising on the initial recognition of goodwill. Deferred taxes are measured at the tax rates that are expected to be applied to temporary differences when they reverse, based on the laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset if there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax liabilities and assets, and they relate to income taxes levied by the same tax authority on the same taxable entity, or on different tax entities, but they intend to settle current tax liabilities and assets on a net basis or their tax assets and liabilities will be realized simultaneously.

A deferred tax asset is recognized for unused tax losses, tax credits and deductible temporary differences, to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which they can be utilized. In addition, the effect on deferred tax assets or liabilities of a change in tax rates is recognized in profit or loss in the period in which the enactment or substantive enactment takes place, except to the extent that it relates to an item recognized either in other comprehensive income (loss) or directly in equity in the current or in a previous period. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realized.

(P) EARNINGS PER SHARE:

The Company presents basic and diluted earnings per share ("EPS") data for its common shares. Basic EPS is calculated by dividing the profit or loss attributable to common shareholders of the Company by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period.

Diluted EPS is determined by adjusting the profit or loss attributable to common shareholders and the weighted average number of common shares outstanding, for the effects of all dilutive potential common shares from the conversion of the convertible debentures and in-the-money stock options.

(Q) NEW STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ADOPTED:

The Company adopted the following standards and interpretations in its consolidated financial statements for the annual period beginning on October 1, 2023.

- Definition of Accounting Estimates (Amendments to IAS 8)
- Disclosure initiative – Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2)
- Deferred tax related to assets and liabilities arising from a single transaction (Amendments to IAS 12)

The adoption of the amendments did not have an impact on the consolidated financial statements.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 3. Material accounting policies: (continued)

## (R) NEW STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS NOT YET ADOPTED:

A number of new standards and amendments to standards and interpretations are not yet effective for the year ending September 28, 2024 and have not been applied in preparing these consolidated financial statements. New standards and amendments to standards and interpretations that are currently under review include:

- Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendments to IAS 1)
- Lease liability in a sale and leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16 Leases)
- Supplier finance arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7)
- Amendments to the classification and measurement of financial instruments (Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7)
- Annual improvements to IFRS Accounting Standards (includes Amendments to IFRS 1, IFRS 7, IFRS 9, IFRS 10, and IAS 7)
- Presentation and disclosure in financial statements (IFRS 18)

The Company does not intend to adopt the Amendments in its consolidated financial statements before the annual period beginning on September 29, 2024. The Company does not expect the amendments to have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements, with the exception of Amendments to IFRS 9 and IFRS 7, and adoption of IFRS 18, for which the impact is being assessed by management.

## 4. Depreciation and amortization expenses:

Depreciation and amortization expenses were charged to the consolidated statements of earnings and comprehensive income as follows:

	September 28, 2024	For the fiscal years ended September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment		
Cost of sales	18,905	17,161
Administration and selling expenses	498	633
	19,403	17,794
Depreciation of right-of-use assets		
Cost of sales	1,916	1,500
Administration and selling expenses	3,736	3,186
	5,652	4,686
Amortization of intangible assets:		
Administration and selling expenses	3,788	3,806
<b>Total depreciation and amortization expenses</b>	<b>28,843</b>	<b>26,286</b>

## 5. Net finance costs:

Recognized in net earnings:

	September 28, 2024	For the fiscal years ended September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Interest expense on convertible unsecured subordinated debentures, including accretion of \$1,130 (2023 - \$1,024) (note 21)	8,636	8,530
Interest on revolving credit facility	4,695	7,293
Interest on senior guaranteed notes, including accretion of \$213 (2023- \$158)	3,694	3,639
Amortization of deferred financing fees	1,328	1,231
Interest on <i>Producteurs et Productrices Acéricoles du Québec</i> supplier balance	1,822	2,265
Other interest expense	43	21
Interest accretion on discounted lease obligations	1,720	1,075
Net change in fair value of interest rate swaps (note 9)	1,845	523
<b>Net finance costs</b>	<b>23,783</b>	<b>24,577</b>

Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

6. Income tax expense (recovery):

	For the fiscal years ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Current tax expense (recovery):		
Current period	17,397	15,024
Adjustments for prior year periods	(1,901)	(348)
Current tax expense (recovery)	15,496	14,676
Deferred tax expense (recovery):		
Recognition and reversal of temporary differences	2,398	3,564
Adjustments for prior year periods	1,803	357
Deferred tax expense (recovery)	4,201	3,921
Total income tax expense	19,697	18,597

Income tax recognized in other comprehensive income (loss):

	For the fiscal years ended					
	September 28, 2024			September 30, 2023		
	Before tax	Tax effect	Net of tax	Before tax	Tax effect	Net of tax
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cash flow hedges	(15,873)	4,074	(11,799)	(16,994)	4,362	(12,632)
Defined benefit actuarial gains	4,477	(1,148)	3,329	14,530	(3,708)	10,822

Reconciliation of effective tax rate:

The provision for income taxes differs from the amount computed by applying the Canadian federal and provincial tax rates to earnings before provision for income taxes. The reasons for the difference and the related tax effects are as follows:

	For the fiscal years ended			
	September 28, 2024		September 30, 2023	
	%	\$	%	\$
Earnings before income taxes	-	73,426	-	70,386
Income taxes using the Company's statutory tax rate	27.00	19,825	27.00	19,004
Changes due to the following items:				
Effect of differences in tax rates in other jurisdictions	(0.42)	(308)	(0.77)	(540)
Non-deductible expenses (income)	0.38	278	0.18	124
Adjustments for prior year periods	(0.13)	(98)	0.01	9
	26.83	19,697	26.42	18,597



Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 7. Trade and other receivables:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	112,391	109,353
Less expected credit loss	(598)	(598)
	<b>111,793</b>	108,755
Other receivables	7,988	7,953
Initial margin deposits with commodity brokers	1,014	1,544
	<b>120,795</b>	118,252

The Company grants credit to its customers in the ordinary course of business.

Management believes that the Company's exposure to credit risk and impairment losses related to trade and other receivables is limited due to the following reasons:

- There is a broad base of customers with dispersion across different market segments.
- Bad debt write-offs to total revenue have been less than 0.1% for each of the last five years (averaging less than \$0.1 million per year). Write-offs for fiscal 2024 were \$Nil (September 30, 2023 - \$0.1 million). All bad debt write-offs are charged to administration and selling expenses.
- Less than 2% of trade receivables are outstanding for more than 90 days (September 30, 2023 - less than 1%), while over 87% are current (less than 30 days) as at September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - 90%).

Through general security agreements with its lenders of the revolving credit facility (Note 16) and senior guaranteed notes (Note 22), trade and other receivables have been granted as continuing collateral security for all present and future indebtedness to the current lenders.

## 8. Inventories:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Raw materials	164,406	172,444
Work in progress	15,364	10,511
Finished goods	75,462	47,770
	<b>255,232</b>	230,725
Packaging and operating supplies	15,430	17,733
Spare parts and other	19,637	18,810
	<b>290,299</b>	267,268

Costs of sales expensed during the year were all inventorial items, except for fixed costs incurred in Taber, Alberta, after the beet slicing campaign, and mark-to-market adjustments of derivative financial instruments.

As at September 28, 2024, inventories recognized as cost of sales amounted to \$1,040.3 million (September 30, 2023 - \$949.4 million).

All inventories have been pledged as security for the revolving credit facility (Note 16) and senior guaranteed notes (Note 22).

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management:

## (A) CLASSIFICATION AND FAIR VALUES:

The following table shows the carrying amount and fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities, including their level in the fair value hierarchy. It does not include fair value information for financial assets and financial liabilities not measured at fair value if the carrying amount is a reasonable approximation of fair value (which is the case for cash, trade and other receivables, revolving credit facility and trade and other payables).

	Carrying Amount				Fair Value	
	Fair value - hedging instruments	Fair value through profit or loss	Amortized cost	Total	Fair value hierarchy level	Amount
<b>September 28, 2024</b>						
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets measured at fair value</b>						
Sugar futures contracts	-	367	-	367	Level 1	367
Foreign exchange forward contracts	-	2,480	-	2,480	Level 2	2,480
Interest rate swaps used for hedging	749	-	-	749	Level 2	749
	749	2,847	-	3,596		
<b>Financial assets not measured at fair value</b>						
Cash	-	-	19,121	19,121		
Trade and other receivables	-	-	120,795	120,795		
	-	-	139,916	139,916		
<b>Financial liabilities measured at fair value</b>						
Natural gas futures contracts used for hedging	(2,702)	-	-	(2,702)	Level 2	(2,702)
Interest rate swaps used for hedging	(3,898)	-	-	(3,898)	Level 2	(3,898)
	(6,600)	-	-	(6,600)		
<b>Financial liabilities not measured at fair value</b>						
Revolving credit facility	-	-	(100,000)	(100,000)		
Trade and other payables	-	-	(195,461)	(195,461)		
Senior guaranteed notes	-	-	(98,409)	(98,409)	Level 2	(93,700)
Convertible unsecured subordinated debentures	-	-	(153,830)	(153,830)	Level 1	(154,000)
	-	-	(547,700)	(547,700)		

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

(A) CLASSIFICATION AND FAIR VALUES: (CONTINUED)

	Carrying Amount				Fair Value	
	Fair value - hedging instruments	Fair value through profit or loss	Amortized cost	Total	Fair value hierarchy level	Amount
September 30, 2023						
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial assets measured at fair value						
Sugar futures contracts	-	331	-	331	Level 1	331
Foreign exchange forward contracts	-	69	-	69	Level 2	69
Natural gas futures contracts used for hedging	4,445	-	-	4,445	Level 2	4,445
Interest rate swaps used for hedging	5,606	-	-	5,606	Level 2	5,606
Other interest rate swaps	-	1,854	-	1,854	Level 2	1,854
	10,051	2,254	-	12,305		
Financial assets not measured at fair value						
Cash	-	-	46	46		
Trade and other receivables	-	-	118,252	118,252		
	-	-	118,298	118,298		
Financial liabilities measured at fair value						
Natural gas futures contracts used for hedging	(28)	-	-	(28)	Level 2	(28)
Foreign exchange forward contracts	-	(1,112)	-	(1,112)	Level 2	(1,112)
	(28)	(1,112)	-	(1,140)		
Financial liabilities not measured at fair value						
Revolving credit facility	-	-	(158,000)	(158,000)		
Trade and other payables	-	-	(164,404)	(164,404)		
Senior guaranteed notes	-	-	(98,212)	(98,212)	Level 2	(81,800)
Convertible unsecured subordinated debentures	-	-	(151,711)	(151,711)	Level 1	(150,700)
	-	-	(572,327)	(572,327)		

(B) DERIVATIVES AND HEDGING:

As at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023, the Company's financial derivatives carrying values were as follows:

	Financial Assets		Financial Liabilities	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
	September 28, 2024		September 28, 2024	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Derivative financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss:</b>				
Sugar futures contracts	367	-	-	-
Foreign exchange forward contracts	2,414	66	-	-
<b>Derivative financial instruments designated as effective cash flow hedging instruments:</b>				
Natural gas futures contracts	-	-	209	2,493
Interest rate swap	749	-	-	3,898
	3,530	66	209	6,391

Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

(B) DERIVATIVES AND HEDGING: (CONTINUED)

	Financial Assets		Financial Liabilities	
	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
	September 30, 2023		September 30, 2023	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Derivative financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss:</b>				
Sugar futures contracts	331	-	-	-
Foreign exchange forward contracts	-	69	1,112	-
Interest rate swap	1,373	481	-	-
<b>Derivative financial instruments designated as effective cash flow hedging instruments:</b>				
Natural gas futures contracts	-	4,445	28	-
Interest rate swap	3,315	2,291	-	-
	5,019	7,286	1,140	-

	For the fiscal years ended					
	Charged to cost of sales Unrealized gain (loss)		Charged to finance income (costs)		Other comprehensive income	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Derivative financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss:</b>						
Sugar futures contracts	(12,533)	11,018	-	-	-	-
Foreign exchange forward contracts	3,684	974	-	-	-	-
Interest rate swap	-	-	(1,845)	(523)	-	-
<b>Derivative financial instruments designated as effective cash flow hedging instruments:</b>						
Natural gas futures contracts	-	-	-	-	(7,119)	(17,217)
Interest rate swap	-	-	-	-	(8,754)	223
	(8,849)	11,992	(1,845)	(523)	(15,873)	(16,994)

The following table summarizes the Company's hedging components of accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) ("AOCI") as at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023:

	September 28, 2024			September 30, 2023		
	Natural gas futures contracts	Interest rate swap	Total	Natural gas futures contracts	Interest rate swap	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening AOCI	5,127	4,797	9,924	22,344	4,574	26,918
Income taxes	(1,828)	(612)	(2,440)	(6,247)	(555)	(6,802)
Opening AOCI - net of income taxes	3,299	4,185	7,484	16,097	4,019	20,116
Change in fair value of derivatives designated as cash flow hedges	(7,119)	(8,754)	(15,873)	(17,217)	223	(16,994)
Income taxes	1,827	2,247	4,074	4,419	(57)	4,362
Ending AOCI - net of income taxes	(1,993)	(2,322)	(4,315)	3,299	4,185	7,484

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (B) DERIVATIVES AND HEDGING: (CONTINUED)

For the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024, the derivatives designated as cash flow hedges were considered to be fully effective and no ineffectiveness has been recognized in net earnings.

Approximately \$0.4 million of net gains presented in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) are expected to be reclassified to net earnings within the next twelve months.

## (C) COMMODITY PRICE RISK:

Commodity price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in commodity prices.

There are two types of commodity contracts, which are entered into by the Company:

## (i) Sugar:

In order to protect itself against fluctuations of the world raw sugar market, the Company follows a rigorous economic hedging program for all purchases of raw cane sugar and sales of refined sugar. Anytime raw sugar is priced by a sugar supplier, a corresponding sugar futures contract is sold for the same quantity, period and underlying value. Anytime refined sugar is priced by a customer, the corresponding volume of raw sugar is purchased for the same quantity, period and underlying value. The Company's policy is to cover all raw cane purchases and refined sugar sales as they are priced by the Company's suppliers and customers. On a daily basis, the Company monitors all net sugar futures contract positions against the physical priced purchases and sales commitments to ensure that appropriate economic hedge positions are in place.

For the Company's beet operation, the Board of Directors approved an economic pre-hedge, using sugar futures contracts, of some of the beet sugar sales that will occur in the future, provided there is a contract in place with the Alberta Sugar Beet Growers to grow sugar beets.

The Board of Directors also approved a trading book up to a maximum of 15,000 metric tonnes of sugar derivative contracts.

The Company's raw sugar futures contracts as well as the fair value of these contracts relating to purchases or sales of raw sugar as at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023 are as follows:

	September 28, 2024			September 30, 2023		
	Original futures contractual amount	Current contractual amount	Fair value gain (loss)	Original futures contractual amount	Current contractual amount	Fair value gain (loss)
	(US\$)	(US\$)	(US\$)	(US\$)	(US\$)	(US\$)
Purchases						
0 - 12 months	137,151	151,208	14,057	103,167	119,965	16,798
12 - 24 months	10,715	11,190	475	8,102	9,950	1,848
Over 24 months	282	284	2	166	186	20
	148,148	162,682	14,534	111,435	130,101	18,666
Sales						
0 - 12 months	(121,117)	(132,500)	(11,383)	(128,088)	(139,517)	(11,429)
12 - 24 months	(334)	(354)	(20)	-	-	-
Over 24 months	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(121,451)	(132,854)	(11,403)	(128,088)	(139,517)	(11,429)
Net position	26,697	29,828	3,131	(16,653)	(9,416)	7,237
Foreign exchange rate at the end of period			1.3515			1.3560
Net value (CA\$)			4,232			9,814
Margin call (receipt) payment at year-end			(3,865)			(9,483)
Net asset (liability) (CA\$)			367			331

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (C) COMMODITY PRICE RISK: (CONTINUED)

## (i) Sugar: (continued)

All sugar futures contracts are traded through a large exchange clearing house on the New York Intercontinental Exchange. Regulation of the US futures industry is primarily self-regulation, with the role of the Federal Commodity Futures Trading Commission being principally an oversight role to determine that self-regulation is continuous and effective.

The exchange clearing house used is one of the world's largest capitalized financial institutions with excellent long-term credit ratings. Daily cash settlements are mandatory (margin calls) for resulting gains and/or losses from futures trading for each customer's account. Due to the above, the Company does not anticipate a credit risk from the raw sugar futures derivative instruments.

As at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023, the Company had the following sugar futures contracts:

	September 28, 2024			September 30, 2023		
	Volume M.T.	Contractual average value per M.T. (US\$)	Total contractual amount (US\$)	Volume M.T.	Contractual average value per M.T. (US\$)	Total contractual amount (US\$)
Purchases	349,067	466.05	162,682	235,421	552.63	130,101
Sales	(270,170)	491.74	(132,854)	(235,726)	567.94	(133,878)
Beet pre-hedge	-	-	-	(9,884)	570.47	(5,639)
	78,897	n/a	29,828	(10,189)	n/a	(9,416)
<b>Foreign exchange rate at the end of the period</b>			<b>1.3515</b>	<b>1.3560</b>		
<b>Total contractual amount CA\$</b>			<b>40,313</b>	<b>(12,767)</b>		

If, on September 28, 2024, the raw sugar value would have increased by US\$0.05 per pound (being approximately US\$110.0 per metric tonne), and all other variables remained constant, the impact on net earnings would have been an increase of approximately \$8.7 million (calculated only on the point-in-time exposure on September 28, 2024) (September 30, 2023 - decrease in net earnings of \$1.1 million for US\$0.05 per pound increase). If the raw sugar value would have decreased by US\$0.02 per pound (being approximately US\$44.00 per metric tonne), and all other variables remained constant, the impact on net earnings would have been an decrease of approximately \$3.5 million (September 30, 2023 - increase in net earnings of \$0.4 million for US\$0.02 decrease).

Except for the beet pre-hedge, management believes that the above is not representative, as the Company has physical raw sugar purchases and refined sugar selling contracts that would offset most gains or losses realized from such decrease or increase in the commodity value, when such contracts are liquidated. The Company had no beet pre-hedge contracts as at September 28, 2024. For the beet pre-hedge, if, on September 30, 2023, the raw sugar value would have increased by US\$0.05 per pound (being approximately US\$110.00 per metric tonne), and all other variables remained constant, the impact on net earnings would have been a decrease of approximately \$1.1 million (calculated only on the point-in-time exposure on September 30, 2023). If the raw sugar value would have decreased by US\$0.02 per pound (being approximately US\$44.00 per metric tonne), and all other variables remained constant, the impact on net earnings would have been an increase of approximately \$0.4 million.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (C) COMMODITY PRICE RISK: (CONTINUED)

## (ii) Natural gas:

In order to mitigate the overall price risks in the purchase of natural gas for use in the manufacturing operations, the Board approved the use of natural gas futures contracts. Natural gas futures contracts cannot be entered into for speculative reasons. The Company monitors its positions and the credit ratings of its counterparties and does not anticipate losses due to counterparty's non-performance. The Company's natural gas contracts as well as the fair value of these contracts relating to purchases of natural gas are as follows:

	September 28, 2024				September 30, 2023			
	Contracts (10,000 MM BTU)	Original futures contractual amount	Current contractual amount	Fair value gain/(loss)	Contracts (10,000 MM BTU)	Original futures contractual amount	Current contractual amount	Fair value gain/(loss)
	(US\$)	(US\$)	(US\$)		(US\$)	(US\$)	(US\$)	
<b>Purchases</b>								
Less than 1 year		7,431	7,276	(155)		7,848	7,827	(21)
1 to 2 years		6,077	7,516	1,439		5,828	7,697	1,869
2 to 3 years		9,173	7,994	(1,179)		6,966	9,343	2,377
3 years and over		20,503	18,399	(2,104)		21,234	20,266	(968)
	<b>1,321</b>	<b>43,184</b>	<b>41,185</b>	<b>(1,999)</b>	1,300	41,876	45,133	3,257
Foreign exchange rate at the end of period				<b>1.3515</b>				1.3560
Net asset (liability) (CA\$)				<b>(2,702)</b>				4,417

The forecasted purchases of natural gas, the hedged items, are used for calculating the hedge ineffectiveness. No ineffectiveness was recognized in net earnings as the change in value of the hedging instrument for calculating ineffectiveness was the same or smaller as the change in value of the hedged items used for calculating the ineffectiveness.

If, on September 28, 2024, the natural gas market price would have increased by US\$1.00, and all other variables remained constant, other comprehensive income (loss) would have increased by \$13.2 million (September 30, 2023 – increase in other comprehensive income (loss) of \$13.0 million) as a result of the change in fair value of our natural gas futures. If the natural gas value would have decreased by US\$1.00, and all other variables remained constant, would have an equal but opposite effect on other comprehensive income (loss).

Management believes that this impact for natural gas is not representative as this variance will mostly offset when the actual natural gas is purchased and used. At such time, a gain or loss on the liquidation of the natural gas contracts would mostly offset the same increase or decrease in the actual physical transaction.

## (D) CURRENCY RISK:

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in the foreign exchange rate. The Company's significant cash flow exposure to foreign currency is due mainly to the following:

- sales in US dollars for both the sugar and maple products segments;
- purchases of imported refined white sugar;
- purchases of natural gas;
- sales of by-products;
- Taber refined sugar and by-products sales;
- ocean freight; and
- purchases of property, plant and equipment for both the sugar and maple segments.

The Company mitigates its exposure to foreign currency by entering into forward exchange contracts.

The credit risk associated with foreign exchange contracts arises from the possibility that a counterparty to a foreign exchange contract, in which the Company has an unrealized gain, fails to perform according to the terms of the contract. The credit risk is much less than the notional principal amount, being limited at any time to the change in foreign exchange rates attributable to the principal amount.

Forward foreign exchange contracts have maturities of less than four years and relate mostly to US currency, and from time to time, Euro, Sterling pound and Australian dollar currencies. The counterparties to these contracts are major Canadian financial institutions. The Company does not anticipate any material adverse effect on its financial position resulting from its involvement in these types of contracts, nor does it anticipate non-performance by the counterparties.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (D) CURRENCY RISK: (CONTINUED)

The Company's foreign currency forward contracts relating to the purchase of raw sugar, the sale of refined sugar, the purchase of natural gas and purchases of property, plant and equipment for the sugar segment are detailed below. In addition, for the maple products segment, the Company hedges its exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency related to its anticipated cash flows from sales to specific US customers, using a foreign exchange forward contract.

The Company's foreign exchange contracts as at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023 are as follows:

	September 28, 2024			
	Original contract value	Original contract value	Current contract value	Fair value gain/(loss)
	(US/EUR/AUD\$)	(CA\$)	(CA\$)	(CA\$)
<b>Sugar</b>				
<b>Purchases US dollars</b>				
Less than 1 year	114,866	154,805	154,885	80
1 to 2 years	3,838	5,134	5,143	9
2 to 3 years	80	106	106	-
	118,784	160,045	160,134	89
<b>Sales US dollars</b>				
Less than 1 year	(171,121)	(232,501)	(230,808)	1,693
1 to 2 years	(9,845)	(13,208)	(13,192)	16
2 to 3 years	(1,345)	(1,790)	(1,794)	(4)
	(182,311)	(247,499)	(245,794)	1,705
<b>Total US dollars – Sugar</b>	<b>(63,527)</b>	<b>(87,454)</b>	<b>(85,660)</b>	<b>1,794</b>
<b>Maple products</b>				
<b>Purchases US dollars</b>				
Less than 1 year	5,350	7,198	7,209	11
<b>Sales US dollars</b>				
Less than 1 year	(43,608)	(59,488)	(58,748)	740
1 to 2 years	(2,745)	(3,721)	(3,674)	47
	(46,353)	(63,209)	(62,422)	787
<b>Total US dollars - Maple</b>	<b>(41,003)</b>	<b>(56,011)</b>	<b>(55,213)</b>	<b>798</b>
<b>Maple</b>				
<b>Purchases EUR</b>				
Less than 1 year	74	111	112	1
<b>Sales EUR</b>				
Less than 1 year	(3,397)	(5,095)	(5,133)	(38)
1 to 2 years	(113)	(170)	(172)	(2)
	(3,510)	(5,265)	(5,305)	(40)
<b>Total EUR – Maple</b>	<b>(3,436)</b>	<b>(5,154)</b>	<b>(5,193)</b>	<b>(39)</b>
<b>Maple products</b>				
<b>Sales AUD</b>				
Less than 1 year	(3,030)	(2,745)	(2,818)	(73)
<b>Total AUD - Maple</b>	<b>(3,030)</b>	<b>(2,745)</b>	<b>(2,818)</b>	<b>(73)</b>
<b>Total Foreign Exchange</b>	<b>(110,996)</b>	<b>(151,364)</b>	<b>(148,884)</b>	<b>2,480</b>



Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (D) CURRENCY RISK: (CONTINUED)

	September 30, 2023			Fair value gain/(loss)
	Original contract value	Original contract value	Current contract value	
	(US/EUR/GBR/AUD\$)	(CA\$)	(CA\$)	(CA\$)
<b>Sugar</b>				
Purchases US dollars				
Less than 1 year	89,510	119,999	121,214	1,215
1 to 2 years	7,402	9,844	9,987	143
2 to 3 years	615	837	832	(5)
	97,527	130,680	132,033	1,353
Sales US dollars				
Less than 1 year	(107,470)	(143,600)	(145,568)	(1,968)
1 to 2 years	(4,710)	(6,284)	(6,356)	(72)
2 to 3 years	(60)	(79)	(81)	(2)
	(112,240)	(149,963)	(152,005)	(2,042)
<b>Total US dollars – Sugar</b>	<b>(14,713)</b>	<b>(19,283)</b>	<b>(19,972)</b>	<b>(689)</b>
<b>Maple products</b>				
Purchases US dollars				
Less than 1 year	2,100	2,821	2,846	25
Sales US dollars				
Less than 1 year	(44,468)	(59,859)	(60,201)	(342)
1 to 2 years	(2,919)	(3,935)	(3,951)	(16)
	(47,387)	(63,794)	(64,152)	(358)
<b>Total US dollars - Maple</b>	<b>(45,287)</b>	<b>(60,973)</b>	<b>(61,306)</b>	<b>(333)</b>
<b>Maple products</b>				
Purchases EUR				
Less than 1 year	185	275	267	(8)
1 to 2 years	74	111	108	(3)
	259	386	375	(11)
Sales EUR				
Less than 1 year	(4,131)	(5,930)	(5,942)	(12)
1 to 2 years	(229)	(343)	(334)	9
	(4,360)	(6,273)	(6,276)	(3)
<b>Total EUR - Maple</b>	<b>(4,101)</b>	<b>(5,887)</b>	<b>(5,901)</b>	<b>(14)</b>
<b>Maple products</b>				
Sales AUD				
Less than 1 year	(3,250)	(2,849)	(2,844)	5
<b>Total AUD - Maple</b>	<b>(3,250)</b>	<b>(2,849)</b>	<b>(2,844)</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Maple Products</b>				
Sales GBR				
Less than 1 year	(416)	(694)	(687)	7
<b>Total GBR – Maple</b>	<b>(416)</b>	<b>(694)</b>	<b>(687)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Total Foreign Exchange</b>	<b>(67,767)</b>	<b>(89,686)</b>	<b>(90,710)</b>	<b>(1,024)</b>

In addition, the Company held 1,000 US dollars options to exercise foreign exchange contracts in fiscal 2023 at US/Can. Exchange rate of 1.50. The fair value of these options is a loss of \$19.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (D) CURRENCY RISK: (CONTINUED)

The Company had the following significant foreign currency exposures at year-end:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	(US\$)	(US\$)
Financial instruments measured at amortized cost		
Cash	1,751	604
Trade and other receivables, including initial margin deposits	29,964	27,478
Trade and other payables	(5,621)	(7,136)
	<b>26,094</b>	20,946
Financial instruments at cash flow hedging instruments or at fair value through profit or loss:		
Net current contractual amount of raw sugar futures contracts	(29,828)	9,416
Natural gas contracts	(43,184)	(41,876)
	<b>(73,012)</b>	(32,460)
Total exposure from above	<b>(46,918)</b>	(11,514)
Forward exchange contracts	<b>(104,529)</b>	(60,000)
Gross exposure	<b>(151,447)</b>	(71,514)
Sugar purchases priced not received	(142,829)	(143,006)
Committed future sales in US dollars	256,434	181,232
Ocean freight	(2,772)	(500)
Net exposure	<b>(40,614)</b>	(33,788)

As at September 28, 2024, the US/Can. Exchange rate was \$1.3515 (September 30, 2023 - \$1.3560).

Based on the above gross exposure at year-end, and assuming that all other variables remain constant, in particular the price of raw sugar and natural gas, a \$0.05 increase in the Canadian dollar would result in an increase in net earnings of \$5.6 million, (September 30, 2023 – increase in net earnings of \$2.6 million) while a \$0.05 decrease would have an equal but opposite effect on net earnings.

Management believes that the impact on the gross exposure is not representative as it needs to be adjusted for transactions, which are not recorded on the consolidated statements of financial position as at year-end but were committed during the fiscal year, and will be accounted for as the physical transactions occur.

The net exposure is due mainly to the Company's policy not to hedge its foreign exchange exposure on natural gas futures contracts with maturities exceeding 12 months. The impact of a \$0.05 increase in the Canadian dollar would result in an increase in net earnings by \$1.5 million in 2024 (September 30, 2023 – increase in net earnings of \$1.2 million) while a decrease would have an equal but opposite effect on net earnings.

Sugar futures sales contracts represent, in large part, contracts entered into when sugar is priced to a customer. As both the raw sugar component of futures sales contracts and the sugar purchases priced not received are in US dollars, there is no need to hedge the currency of the raw sugar component, hence the adjustment for sugar purchases priced not received. It also includes the Taber sales of refined sugar in US dollars. As all beet sugar is paid in Canadian dollars, Taber sales contracts in US dollars need to be financially hedged for currency exposure.

Some sales are transacted in US dollars. For these sales, the raw sugar value is not hedged, as the corresponding futures contract is also in US dollars. Only the US dollar refined sugar margin and ocean freight contribution are hedged for the currency exposure.

Ocean freight for raw sugar is denominated in US dollars and therefore forward exchange contracts are used to cover the foreign exchange exposure.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (E) INTEREST RATE RISK:

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. In order to fix the interest rate on a substantial portion of the expected drawdown of the revolving credit facility, the Company enters into interest rate swap agreements.

In 2024, the Company has entered into two interest rate swap agreements for \$100.0 million each. Details of such agreements are listed in the table below. In addition, in order to conform with the IBOR reform, the Company has amended the terms of the two remaining interest rate swap agreements to match the exact same terms as for the new agreements that were entered in the year.

The aggregate notional amount as at the reporting date of all the interest rate swap agreements all contracted under Daily compounded CORRA is as follows:

Fiscal year contracted	Date	Total value \$
Fiscal 2020 <sup>(2)</sup>	February 24, 2020 to June 28, 2025 – 1.327% (September 30, 2023 - 1.60%)	20,000
Fiscal 2020 <sup>(2)</sup>	June 28, 2024 to June 28, 2025 – 0.907% (September 30, 2023 – 1.18%)	80,000
Fiscal 2024 <sup>(1)</sup>	December 30, 2024 to December 30, 2026 – 3.941%	100,000
Fiscal 2024 <sup>(1)</sup>	June 27, 2025 to June 27, 2027 – 3.695%	100,000

(1) Interest rate swap agreements entered in fiscal 2024

(2) The terms of the interest rate swap agreements have been amended to conform with the IBOR reform. Comparative information is under CDOR

The counterparties to these swap agreements are major Canadian financial institutions. The Company does not anticipate any material adverse effect on its financial position resulting from its involvement in these types of swap agreements, nor does it anticipate non-performance by the counterparties.

As at September 28, 2024, the Company has a short-term cash borrowing of \$Nil (September 30, 2023 - \$58.0 million) and a long-term cash borrowing of \$198.4 million (September 30, 2023 - \$198.2 million). The Company has \$98.4 million in senior guaranteed notes bearing fixed interest rate and therefore may be exposed to fair value variance (September 30, 2023 - \$98.2 million). Remaining borrowing is normally entered into 30 day Daily compounded CORRA for an amount varying between \$100.0 million to \$210.0 million of the borrowings or under prime rate loans.

To mitigate the risk in future cash flows due to interest rate fluctuations, the Company enters into interest rate swap agreements from time to time. All other borrowings over and above the aggregate notional amount of the swap agreements are therefore exposed to interest rate fluctuations, to the exception of the senior guaranteed notes that bear fixed interest rate.

For the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024, if interest rates had been 50 basis points higher, considering all borrowings not covered by the interest rate swap agreements designated for hedge accounting, net earnings would have been \$0.1 million lower (September 30, 2023 - \$0.3 million lower net earnings) while a decrease would have an equal but opposite effect on net earnings.

## (i) Interest rate benchmark reform:

On June 28, 2024, the remaining CAD CDOR 1-month, 2-month and 3-month tenors ceased. The Company's hedged items and hedging instruments have been converted from CDOR to CORRA. The benchmark rates are quoted each day and the CORRA cash flows are exchanged with counterparties as usual.

## (F) CREDIT RISK:

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Company if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligation. The Company believes it has limited credit risk other than those explained in Note 7, Trade and other receivables and Note 9, Financial instruments.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (G) LIQUIDITY RISK:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will not be able to meet its obligations as they fall due. The following are the contractual maturities of financial liabilities, including estimated interest payments:

	September 28, 2024				
	Carrying amount	Contractual cash flows	0 to 12 months	12 to 24 months	After 24 months
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Non-derivative financial liabilities</b>					
Revolving credit facility	100,000	100,000	-	-	100,000
Trade and other payables	195,461	195,461	195,461	-	-
Convertible unsecured subordinated debentures-Sixth series	57,182	57,425	57,425	-	-
Senior guaranteed notes	98,409	100,000	-	-	100,000
	451,052	452,886	252,886	-	200,000
<b>Derivative financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss:</b>					
Sugar futures contracts <sup>(1)</sup>	(367)	40,313	25,284	14,645	384
Forward exchange contracts (net) <sup>(1)</sup>	(2,480)	(151,364)	(137,714)	(11,966)	(1,684)
<b>Derivative financial instruments designated as effective cash flow hedging instruments:</b>					
Natural gas contracts <sup>(1)</sup>	2,702	55,661	9,834	10,158	35,669
Interest on swap agreements	3,149	16,599	4,875	7,636	4,088
	3,004	(38,791)	(97,721)	20,473	38,457
	454,056	414,095	155,165	20,473	238,457

(1) Based on notional amounts as presented above.

	September 30, 2023				
	Carrying amount	Contractual cash flows	0 to 12 months	12 to 24 months	After 24 months
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Non-derivative financial liabilities</b>					
Revolving credit facility	158,000	158,000	-	-	158,000
Trade and other payables	164,404	164,404	164,404	-	-
Senior guaranteed notes	98,212	100,000	-	-	100,000
	420,616	422,404	164,404	-	258,000
<b>Derivative financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss:</b>					
Sugar futures contracts <sup>(1)</sup>	(331)	(12,768)	(26,512)	13,492	252
Forward exchange contracts (net) <sup>(1)</sup>	1,043	(89,686)	(89,837)	(607)	758
Interest on swap agreements	(1,854)	812	572	240	-
<b>Derivative financial instruments designated as effective cash flow hedging instruments:</b>					
Natural gas contracts <sup>(1)</sup>	(4,417)	61,200	10,614	10,437	40,149
Interest on swap agreements	(5,606)	2,558	1,850	708	-
	(11,165)	(37,884)	(103,313)	24,270	41,159
	409,451	384,520	61,091	24,270	299,159

(1) Based on notional amounts as presented above.

The convertible unsecured subordinated debentures-Seventh series of \$96.6 million (September 30, 2023 - \$151.7 million for the Sixth series and Seventh series) have been excluded from the above due to the Company's option to satisfy the obligations at redemption or maturity in shares. The Company is currently assessing its options regarding the upcoming maturity of the Seventh series. The options include, but are not limited to, conversion to shares, refinancing the obligation using similar financial instrument or repayment of the obligation using other equity and/or debt instruments.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 9. Financial instruments and risk management: (continued)

## (G) LIQUIDITY RISK: (CONTINUED)

The Company borrows under its revolving credit facility (Note 16). It is the Company's intention to keep a debt level under its revolving credit facility ranging between \$100.0 million and \$255.0 million. All other non-derivative financial liabilities are expected to be financed through the collection of trade and other receivables and cash flows generated from operations. The eastern expansion project ( "LEAP Project" ) is financed using a combination of various financial instruments, including the revolving credit facility, loans from Investissement Quebec ("IQ loans") for up to \$65 millions, and other debt and/or equity instruments.

Derivative financial instruments for raw sugar, natural gas and forward exchange contracts are expected to be financed from the working capital of the Company.

As at September 28, 2024, the Company had an unused available line of credit of \$240.0 million (September 30, 2023 - \$107.0 million), a cash balance of \$19.1 million (September 30, 2023 - \$0.1 million).

## 10. Property, plant and equipment:

	Land	Buildings	Machinery and equipment	Barrels	Furniture and fixtures	Construction in progress	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Cost or deemed cost:</b>							
Balance at October 1, 2022	18,089	86,033	360,386	2,952	9,021	36,777	513,258
Additions	-	6	230	-	(30)	37,210	37,416
Transfers	-	11,137	31,097	-	1,230	(43,464)	-
Disposals	-	-	(1,614)	-	-	-	(1,614)
Effect of movements in exchange rate	-	(1)	(8)	-	(1)	-	(10)
Balance at September 30, 2023	18,089	97,175	390,091	2,952	10,220	30,523	549,050
<b>Additions</b>	-	<b>96</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>84,101</b>	<b>85,342</b>
<b>Transfers</b>	-	<b>1,666</b>	<b>20,829</b>	-	<b>279</b>	<b>(22,774)</b>	-
<b>Disposals</b>	-	<b>(28)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	-	<b>(105)</b>	-	<b>(164)</b>
<b>Effect of movements in exchange rate</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at September 28, 2024</b>	<b>18,089</b>	<b>98,909</b>	<b>411,633</b>	<b>3,299</b>	<b>10,448</b>	<b>91,850</b>	<b>634,228</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>							
Balance at October 1, 2022	-	33,020	223,869	2,133	6,267	-	265,289
Depreciation	-	3,216	13,308	285	985	-	17,794
Disposals	-	-	(1,218)	-	-	-	(1,218)
Balance at September 30, 2023	-	36,236	235,959	2,418	7,252	-	281,865
<b>Depreciation</b>	-	<b>3,191</b>	<b>15,281</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>794</b>	-	<b>19,403</b>
<b>Disposals</b>	-	<b>(28)</b>	<b>(31)</b>	-	<b>(101)</b>	-	<b>(160)</b>
<b>Balance at September 28, 2024</b>	-	<b>39,399</b>	<b>251,209</b>	<b>2,555</b>	<b>7,945</b>	-	<b>301,108</b>
<b>Net carrying amounts</b>							
At September 30, 2023	18,089	60,939	154,132	534	2,968	30,523	267,185
<b>At September 28, 2024</b>	<b>18,089</b>	<b>59,510</b>	<b>160,424</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>2,503</b>	<b>91,850</b>	<b>333,120</b>

There were no impairment losses during fiscal 2024 and 2023.

Any grants received are offset against property, plant and equipment additions. During the year, an amount of \$0.2 million was recorded (September 30, 2023 - \$0.7 million).

All property, plant and equipment have been pledged as security for the revolving credit facility (Note 16) and senior guaranteed notes (Note 22).

The Company has capitalized costs of \$42.6 million in fiscal 2024 and a cumulative total of \$53.8 million at September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$11.2 million for fiscal 2023 and cumulative total as at September 30, 2023), associated with the LEAP project. Included in this amount are capitalized borrowing costs of \$1.3 million in fiscal 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$0.4 million), calculated using a capitalization rate of 5.1%, and \$11.3 million of deposits on machinery and equipment as at September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$Nil). These costs are included in construction in progress.

Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 11. Right-of-use assets:

	Land	Buildings	Machinery and equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Cost:</b>				
Balance at October 1, 2022	40	26,843	8,701	35,584
Additions	-	5,555	6,538	12,093
Disposals	-	(1,629)	-	(1,629)
Effect of movements in exchange rate	-	(16)	(2)	(18)
Balance at September 30, 2023	40	30,753	15,237	46,030
<b>Additions</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,463</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>3,174</b>
<b>Disposals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(347)</b>	<b>(347)</b>
<b>Effect of movements in exchange rate</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Balance at September 28, 2024</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>33,215</b>	<b>15,601</b>	<b>48,856</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>				
Balance at October 1, 2022	-	9,538	3,114	12,652
Depreciation	-	3,253	1,433	4,686
Disposals	-	(1,281)	-	(1,281)
Balance at September 30, 2023	-	11,510	4,547	16,057
<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>1,954</b>	<b>5,652</b>
<b>Disposals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(347)</b>	<b>(347)</b>
<b>Balance at September 28, 2024</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,208</b>	<b>6,154</b>	<b>21,362</b>
<b>Net carrying amounts:</b>				
At September 30, 2023	40	19,243	10,690	29,973
<b>At September 28, 2024</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18,007</b>	<b>9,447</b>	<b>27,494</b>

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 12. Intangible assets:

	Software	Customer relationships	Brand names <sup>(1)</sup>	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Cost:</b>					
Balance at October 1, 2022	4,508	34,513	5,857	574	45,452
Additions	432	-	-	-	432
Balance at September 30, 2023	4,940	34,513	5,857	574	45,884
<b>Additions</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>Effect of movements in exchange rate</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Balance at September 28, 2024</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>34,636</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>46,218</b>
<b>Accumulated amortization:</b>					
Balance at October 1, 2022	3,356	17,523	-	309	21,188
Amortization for the year	335	3,442	-	29	3,806
Balance at September 30, 2023	3,691	20,965	-	338	24,994
<b>Amortization for the year</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>3,444</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3,788</b>
<b>Balance at September 28, 2024</b>	<b>4,006</b>	<b>24,409</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>28,782</b>
<b>Net carrying amounts:</b>					
At September 30, 2023	1,249	13,548	5,857	236	20,890
<b>At September 28, 2024</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>10,227</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>17,436</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Indefinite life

## 13. Other assets:

Deferred financing charges represent the fees and costs related to the revolving credit facility agreement (Note 16). These fees are amortized over the life of the revolving credit facility, which matures on October 31, 2027.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

14. Deferred tax liabilities:

The deferred tax liabilities comprise the following temporary differences:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Net assets (liabilities):		
Property, plant and equipment	(44,939)	(41,618)
Right-of-use assets	(7,119)	(7,737)
Intangibles	(4,648)	(5,566)
Employee benefits	(904)	739
Lease obligations	7,413	7,857
Derivative financial instruments	(221)	(5,307)
Losses carried forward	4,220	7,832
Goodwill	(3,042)	(2,934)
Provisions	2,172	434
Deferred financing charges	698	(640)
Other	1,112	1,452
	<b>(45,258)</b>	<b>(45,488)</b>

As at September 28, 2024, no deferred tax liability was recognized for temporary differences arising from investments in subsidiaries because the Company controls the decisions affecting the realization of such liabilities and it is probable that the temporary differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

The movement in temporary differences during the current years is as follows:

	Balance September 30, 2023	Recognized in profit (loss)	Recognized in other comprehensive income (loss)	Recognized in equity	Balance September 28, 2024
Property, plant and equipment	(41,618)	(3,321)	-	-	(44,939)
Right-of-use assets	(7,737)	617	1	-	(7,119)
Intangibles	(5,566)	918	-	-	(4,648)
Employee benefits	739	(495)	(1,148)	-	(904)
Lease obligations	7,857	(443)	(1)	-	7,413
Derivative financial instruments	(5,307)	1,012	4,074	-	(221)
Losses carried forward	7,832	(3,612)	-	-	4,220
Goodwill	(2,934)	(110)	2	-	(3,042)
Provisions	434	1,738	-	-	2,172
Deferred financing charges	(640)	(166)	-	1,504	698
Other	1,452	(339)	(1)	-	1,112
	<b>(45,488)</b>	<b>(4,201)</b>	<b>2,927</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>(45,258)</b>

	Balance October 1, 2022	Recognized in profit (loss)	Recognized in other comprehensive income (loss)	Balance September 30, 2023
Property, plant and equipment	(37,289)	(4,330)	1	(41,618)
Right-of-use assets	(5,977)	(1,766)	6	(7,737)
Intangibles	(6,488)	923	(1)	(5,566)
Employee benefits	4,757	(310)	(3,708)	739
Lease obligations	6,039	1,823	(5)	7,857
Derivative financial instruments	(6,803)	(2,866)	4,362	(5,307)
Losses carried forward	5,283	2,549	-	7,832
Goodwill	(2,863)	(79)	8	(2,934)
Provisions	728	(294)	-	434
Deferred financing charges	(857)	217	-	(640)
Other	1,241	212	(1)	1,452
	<b>(42,229)</b>	<b>(3,921)</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>(45,488)</b>



Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 15. Goodwill and indefinite life intangible assets:

## Recoverability of cash generating units ("CGU"):

For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill and intangibles with indefinite useful life are allocated to the Company's operating segments, which represent the lowest level within the Company at which the goodwill and intangibles are monitored for internal management purposes, as follows:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Sugar:		
Goodwill	229,952	229,952
Maple:		
Goodwill	3,055	3,055
Brand names	5,900	5,857
	<b>238,907</b>	<b>238,864</b>

In assessing whether goodwill and indefinite life intangible assets are impaired, the carrying amount of the segments (including goodwill and indefinite life intangible assets) are compared to their recoverable amount. The recoverable amounts of segments are based on the higher of the value in use and fair value less costs of disposal.

## (A) SUGAR SEGMENT

The Company performed the annual impairment review for goodwill as at September 28, 2024, and the estimated recoverable amounts exceeded the carrying amounts of the segment and, as a result, there was no impairment identified.

The recoverable amount was based on the value in use. The key assumptions used in the estimation of the recoverable amount are set out below. The key assumptions represent management's assessment of future trends in the relevant industries and have been based on historical data from both external and internal sources.

	2024	2023
	%	%
Pre-tax discount rate	10.7	12.1
Terminal growth rate	2.5	2.6
Budgeted EBITDA growth rate (average of next 5 years)	4.7	3.2

The discount rate was a pre-tax measure estimated based on historical industry weighted-average cost of capital adjusted for impacts on risk and taxes.

The cash flow projections included specific estimates for five years and a terminal growth rate thereafter. The terminal growth rate was based on management's best estimate of the long-term compound annual EBITDA growth rate.

Budgeted EBITDA was estimated taking into account past experience, adjusted to factor revenue growth for the first year based on budgeted sales volumes, and the following years taking into account the average growth levels experienced over the past 5 years and the estimated sales volumes resulting from the LEAP project and price growth for the next five years. It was assumed that the sales price would increase in line with forecasted inflation over the next five years.

Management has identified the two key assumptions that could cause the carrying amount to exceed the recoverable amount. The following table shows the amount by which these two assumptions would need to change individually for the estimated recoverable amount to be equal to the carrying amount.

	2024	2023
	% Basis points	% Basis points
Pre-tax discount rate	3.4	3.4
Budgeted EBITDA growth rate	(4.0)	(4.4)

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 15. Goodwill and indefinite life intangible assets: (continued)

## (B) MAPLE SEGMENT

2024 fiscal year:

The Company performed the annual impairment review for goodwill as at September 28, 2024, and the estimated recoverable amounts exceeded the carrying amounts of the segment and, as a result, there was no impairment identified.

The recoverable amount was based on the value in use. The key assumptions used in the estimation of the recoverable amount are set out below. The key assumptions represent management's assessment of future trends in the relevant industries and have been based on historical data from both external and internal sources.

	2024
	%
Pre-tax discount rate	11.7
Terminal growth rate	3.0
Budgeted EBITDA growth rate (average of next 5 years)	2.7

The discount rate was a pre-tax measure estimated based on historical industry weighted-average cost of capital adjusted for impacts on risk and taxes.

The cash flow projections included specific estimates for five years and a terminal growth rate thereafter. The terminal growth rate was based on management's best estimate of the long-term compound annual EBITDA growth rate.

Budgeted EBITDA was estimated taking into account past experience, adjusted to factor revenue growth for the first year based on budgeted sales volumes, and the following years taking into account the average growth levels experienced over the past 5 years and price growth for the next five years. It was assumed that the sales price would increase in line with forecasted inflation over the next five years.

Management has identified the two key assumptions that could cause the carrying amount to exceed the recoverable amount. The following table shows the amount by which these two assumptions would need to change individually for the estimated recoverable amount to be equal to the carrying amount.

	2024
	% Basis points
Pre-tax discount rate	6.6
Budgeted EBITDA growth rate	(5.1)

2023 fiscal year:

The Company performed the annual impairment review for goodwill and indefinite life intangible assets as at September 30, 2023, and determined the estimated recoverable amounts using the higher of the value in use and fair value less costs to sell (the "FVLCS").

The FVLCS is the amount obtainable from the sale of the cash generating unit in an arm's-length transaction between knowledgeable, willing parties, less the costs of disposal. The fair value hierarchy used to measure the FVLCS is level 3. Management has estimated this amount by using the market approach which incorporated comparable and transaction multiples which were applied to adjusted EBITDA of fiscal 2023 and budgeted EBITDA for fiscal 2024 to derive a range of the FVLCS. The key assumption was the multiple selected based on comparable companies in the same sector as the Maple CGU. Other assumptions include a size discount, the cost to dispose and a control premium. The estimated multiple ranged from 7.4x to 17.5x adjusted EBITDA.

The Company determined that the FVLCS exceeded the carrying amount. A reasonable change in any of the key assumptions would result in an impairment.

## 16. Revolving credit facility:

The Company had a total of \$340.0 million of available working capital under the revolving credit facility, which matures on October 31, 2027, from which it can borrow at prime rate, SOFR rate or under Adjusted Daily compounded or Term CORRA loan (which is Daily compounded or Term CORRA plus an adjustment varying between 30 to 32 basis points), plus 20 to 250 basis points, subject to achieving certain financial ratios.

Certain assets of the Company, including trade receivables, inventories and property, plant and equipment, have been pledged as security for the revolving credit facility. As at September 28, 2024, a total of \$722.8 million of assets are pledged as security (September 30, 2023 - \$630.0 million). The Company must comply with certain financial covenants related to the revolving credit facility on a quarterly basis. The Company was in compliance with the financial covenants at year end.

Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 16. Revolving credit facility: (continued)

The following amounts were outstanding under the revolving credit facility as at:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Current	-	58,000
Non-current	100,000	100,000
	<b>100,000</b>	<b>158,000</b>

The carrying value of the revolving credit facility approximates fair value. The valuation model considers the present value of expected payments, discounted using a risk-adjusted discount rate.

## 17. Trade and other payables:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Trade payables	154,971	125,873
Other non-trade payables	4,072	4,081
Personnel-related liabilities	24,905	24,991
Dividends payable to shareholders	11,513	9,459
	<b>195,461</b>	<b>164,404</b>

Considering that maple syrup is harvested once a year, the *Producteurs et Productrices Acericoles du Québec* ("PPAQ") offers to authorized purchasers the possibility to pay their purchases throughout the year, and before the end of February. The outstanding balance of \$87.2 million as at September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$71.8 million) is included in trade payables, bears interest at 5.5% (September 30, 2023 – 5.5%) and is paid in five monthly installments (October, November, December, January and February).

During the year, approximately 86% of the maple syrup purchases were made through the PPAQ process.

Personnel-related liabilities represent the Company's obligation to its current and former employees that are expected to be settled within one year from the reporting period as salary and accrued vacation.

## 18. Provisions:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Opening balance	1,702	2,836
Additions	9,670	350
Provisions used during the period	(2,906)	(1,484)
Closing balance	<b>8,466</b>	<b>1,702</b>
Presented as:		
Current	5,585	1,415
Non-current	2,881	287
	<b>8,466</b>	<b>1,702</b>

Provisions are comprised of asset retirement obligations, which represent the future cost the Company estimated to incur for the removal of asbestos in the operating facilities and for oil, chemical and other hazardous materials for which the Company has been able to identify the costs.

The estimate of the total liability for future asset retirement obligations is subject to change, based on amendments to laws and regulations and as new information concerning the Company's operations becomes available. Future changes, if any, to the estimated total liability as a result of amended requirements, laws, regulations and operating assumptions would be recognized prospectively as a change in estimate, when applicable.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

19. Lease obligations:

The Company's leases are primarily for warehouses, operating properties, railcars and production equipment.

The following table presents lease obligations recorded in the consolidated statements of financial position:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Current	5,194	4,364
Non-current	23,448	26,086

The following table summarizes the reconciliation of the lease obligations for the periods ended:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Opening balance	30,450	23,189
Additions	3,174	12,093
Disposal	-	(498)
Payment of lease obligations	(6,700)	(5,419)
Interest accretion	1,720	1,075
Other	(2)	10
Closing balance	28,642	30,450

Certain leases contain extension or termination options exercisable by the Company before the end of the non-cancellable contract period. The Company has applied judgement to determine the lease term for the contracts with renewal and termination options and has included renewal and termination options in the measurement of lease obligations when it is reasonably certain to exercise the options. The Company reassesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise the options if there is a significant event or a significant change in circumstances which impacts the original assessments made.

Expenses relating to short-term leases, and for leases of low-value assets were not significant for the period ended September 28, 2024 and for September 30, 2023.

The total cash outflow for leases (including interest) for the period ended September 28, 2024 was \$6.7 million (September 30, 2023-\$5.4 million), which was included as part of cash outflows from financing activities.

The lease obligations are payable as follows:

	September 28, 2024			September 30, 2023		
	Future minimum lease payments	Interest	Present value of minimum lease payments	Future minimum lease payments	Interest	Present value of minimum lease payments
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Less than one year	6,706	1,512	5,194	5,965	1,601	4,364
Between one and five years	17,217	3,680	13,537	18,277	4,283	13,994
More than five years	11,646	1,735	9,911	14,489	2,397	12,092
	35,569	6,927	28,642	38,731	8,281	30,450

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 20. Employee benefits:

The Company sponsors defined benefit pension plans for its employees ("Pension benefit plans"), as well as health care benefits, medical plans and life insurance coverage ("Other benefit plans").

The following table presents a reconciliation of the pension obligations, the plan assets and the funded status of the benefit plans:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Fair value of plan assets:		
Pension benefit plans	137,767	115,940
Defined benefit obligation:		
Pension benefit plans	122,820	108,413
Other benefit plans	11,423	10,425
	<b>134,243</b>	<b>118,838</b>
Funded status:		
Pension benefit plans	14,947	7,527
Other benefit plans	(11,423)	(10,425)
	<b>3,524</b>	<b>(2,898)</b>
Plans with net assets:		
Pension benefit plans	<b>23,189</b>	16,021
Plans with net liabilities:		
Pension benefit plans	(8,242)	(8,494)
Other benefit plans	(11,423)	(10,425)
	<b>(19,665)</b>	<b>(18,919)</b>

The Company has determined that, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the defined benefit pension plans, and in accordance with statutory requirements (such as minimum funding requirements) of the plans of the respective jurisdictions, the present value of refunds or reductions in the future contributions is not lower than the balance of the total fair value of the plan assets less the total present value of the obligations.

The Company measures its accrued benefit obligations and the fair value of plan assets for accounting purposes at year-end. The most recent actuarial valuation of the pension plans for funding purposes was as of January 1, 2022, the next required valuation will be as of December 31, 2024.

The asset allocation of the major categories in the plan was as follows:

	September 28, 2024		September 30, 2023	
	%	\$	%	\$
Equity instruments	62.0	85,364	61.5	71,303
Government bonds	33.0	45,484	34.7	40,231
Cash and short-term securities	5.0	6,919	3.8	4,406
	<b>100.0</b>	<b>137,767</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>115,940</b>

Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 20. Employee benefits: (continued)

The pension committee prepares the documentation relating to the management of asset allocation, reviews the investment policy and recommends it to the Board of Directors for approval in the event of material changes to the policy. Semi-annually monitoring of the asset allocation of the pension benefit plans allows the pension committee to ensure that the limits of asset allocation of the pension benefit plans are respected.

Based on historical data, contributions to the defined benefit pension plans in fiscal 2025 are expected to be approximately \$4.2 million.

The pension plan exposes the Company to the following risks:

## (i) Investment risk:

The defined benefit obligation is calculated using a discount rate. If the fund returns are lower than the discount rate, a deficit is created.

## (ii) Interest rate risk:

Variation in bond rates will affect the value of the defined benefit obligation.

## (iii) Inflation risk:

The defined benefit obligation is calculated assuming a certain level of inflation. An actual inflation higher than expected will have the effect of increasing the value of the defined benefit obligation.

The movement in the pension and other benefit plans is as follows:

	For the fiscal years ended					
	September 28, 2024			September 30, 2023		
	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans	Total	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans	Total
Movement in the present value of the defined benefit obligation:						
Defined benefit obligation, beginning of the year	108,413	10,425	118,838	112,550	11,847	124,397
Current service cost	1,760	177	1,937	1,853	185	2,038
Interest cost	5,950	563	6,513	5,680	573	6,253
Employee contributions	1,078	-	1,078	1,021	-	1,021
Benefit payments from plan	(5,321)	-	(5,321)	(5,795)	-	(5,795)
Benefit payments from employer	(945)	(693)	(1,638)	(970)	(700)	(1,670)
Actuarial (gains) losses arising from changes in demographic assumptions	-	(308)	(308)	-	(681)	(681)
Actuarial (gains) losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	12,095	1,246	13,341	(6,170)	(707)	(6,877)
Actuarial (gains) losses arising from member experience	(210)	13	(197)	244	(92)	152
Defined benefit obligation, end of year	122,820	11,423	134,243	108,413	10,425	118,838
Movement in the fair value of plan assets:						
Fair value of plan assets, beginning of the year	115,940	-	115,940	105,868	-	105,868
Interest income	6,495	-	6,495	5,441	-	5,441
Return on plan assets (excluding interest income)	17,319	-	17,319	7,292	-	7,292
Employer contributions	3,372	693	4,065	3,607	700	4,307
Employee contributions	1,078	-	1,078	1,021	-	1,021
Benefit payments from plan	(5,321)	-	(5,321)	(5,795)	-	(5,795)
Benefit payments from employer	(945)	(693)	(1,638)	(970)	(700)	(1,670)
Plan expenses	(171)	-	(171)	(524)	-	(524)
Fair value of plan assets, end of year	137,767	-	137,767	115,940	-	115,940

Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

20. Employee benefits: (continued)

The net defined benefit obligation can be allocated to the plans' participants as follows:

	September 28, 2024		September 30, 2023	
	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans
	%	%	%	%
Active plan participants	42.2	30.5	40.0	28.4
Retired plan members	53.1	69.5	55.4	71.6
Deferred plan participants	4.7	-	4.6	-
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The Company's defined benefit pension expense was as follows:

	For the fiscal years ended					
	September 28, 2024			September 30, 2023		
	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans	Total	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Pension costs recognized in net earnings:						
Current service cost	1,760	177	1,937	1,853	185	2,038
Expenses related to the pension benefit plans	171	-	171	524	-	524
Net interest cost (income)	(547)	563	16	239	573	812
Re-measurements of other long-term benefits	9	(15)	(6)	(19)	(149)	(168)
Pension expense	1,393	725	2,118	2,597	609	3,206
Recognized in:						
Cost of sales	806	552	1,358	2,047	530	2,577
Administration and selling expenses	587	173	760	550	79	629
	1,393	725	2,118	2,597	609	3,206

The following table presents the change in the actuarial gains and losses recognized in other comprehensive income (loss):

	For the fiscal years ended					
	September 28, 2024			September 30, 2023		
	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans	Total	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cumulative amount in comprehensive income (loss) at the beginning of the year	(28,966)	(14,150)	(43,116)	(15,767)	(12,819)	(28,586)
Recognized during the year	(5,443)	966	(4,477)	(13,199)	(1,331)	(14,530)
Cumulative amount in comprehensive income (loss) at the end of the year	(34,409)	(13,184)	(47,593)	(28,966)	(14,150)	(43,116)
Recognized during the year, net of tax	(4,047)	718	(3,329)	(9,831)	(991)	(10,822)

Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

20. Employee benefits: (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions used were as follows:

	For the fiscal years ended			
	September 28, 2024		September 30, 2023	
	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans	Pension benefit plans	Other benefit plans
	%	%	%	%
Company's defined benefit obligation:				
Discount rate	4.70	4.70	5.65	5.65
Rate of compensation increase	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Net benefit plans expense:				
Discount rate	5.65	5.65	5.10	5.10
Rate of compensation increase	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.50

Assumptions regarding future mortality are based on published statistics and mortality tables. The current longevities underlying the value of the liabilities in the defined benefit plans are as follows:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
Longevity at age 65 for current pensioners:		
Males	22.4	22.3
Females	24.9	24.9
Longevity at age 65 for members aged 45:		
Males	23.8	23.8
Females	26.2	26.2

The assumed health care cost trend rate as at September 28, 2024 was 5.38% (September 30, 2023 - 5.47%), decreasing uniformly to 4.00% in 2040 (September 30, 2023 - 4.00% in 2040) and remaining at that level thereafter.

The following table outlines the key assumptions for the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024 and the sensitivity of a percentage change in each of these assumptions on the defined benefit plan obligations and the net defined benefit plan costs.

The sensitivity analysis provided in the table is hypothetical and should be used with caution. The sensitivities of each key assumption have been calculated independently of any changes in other key assumptions. Actual experience may result in changes in a number of key assumptions simultaneously. Changes in one factor may result in changes in another, which could amplify or reduce the impact of such assumptions.

	For the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024		
	Pension benefit plan	Other benefit plan	Total
	\$	\$	\$
(Decrease) increase in Company's defined benefit obligation:			
<b>Discount rate</b>			
Impact of increase of 1%	(13,594)	(1,328)	(14,922)
Impact of decrease of 1%	17,199	1,683	18,882
<b>Rate of compensation increase</b>			
Impact of increase of 0.5%	967	3	970
Impact of decrease of 0.5%	(982)	(4)	(986)
<b>Mortality</b>			
99% of expected rate	253	33	286

Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the health care plans. A one-percentage-point change in assumed health care cost trend would have the following effects:

	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$
Effect on the defined benefit obligations	1,365	(1,103)

As at September 28, 2024, the weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation amounts to 13.0 years (September 30, 2023 - 11.5 years).



## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 21. Convertible unsecured subordinated debentures:

The outstanding convertible debentures are as follows:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
<b>Non-current:</b>		
Sixth series <sup>(A)</sup>	57,425	57,425
Seventh series <sup>(B)</sup>	97,575	97,575
Total face value	155,000	155,000
Less net deferred financing fees	(559)	(1,547)
Less equity component <sup>(A), (B)</sup>	(6,930)	(6,930)
Accumulated accretion expense	6,319	5,188
Total carrying value – current (September 30, 2023 – non-current)	153,830	151,711

## (A) SIXTH SERIES:

On July 28, 2017, the Company issued \$57.5 million Sixth series, 5.00% convertible unsecured subordinated debentures ("Sixth series debentures"), maturing on December 31, 2024, with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on June 30 and December 31 of each year. The debentures may be converted at the option of the holder at any time prior to maturity, at a conversion price of \$8.26 per share.

The debentures are redeemable at a price equal to the principal amount thereof plus accrued unpaid interest.

On redemption or at maturity, the Company will repay the indebtedness of the convertible debentures by paying an amount equal to the principal amount of the outstanding convertible debentures, together with accrued and unpaid interest thereon.

The Company may, at its option, elect to satisfy its obligation to repay the principal amount of the convertible debentures, which are to be redeemed or which have matured, by issuing shares to the holders of the convertible debentures. The number of shares to be issued will be determined by dividing the indebtedness related to the convertible debenture by 95% of the then current market price on the day preceding the date fixed for redemption or the maturity date, as the case may be.

The Company allocated \$2.6 million of the Sixth series debentures into an equity component (net of tax an amount of \$2.0 million). During the year, the Company recorded \$0.4 million (September 30, 2023 - \$0.4 million) in finance costs for the accretion of the Sixth series debentures.

The Company incurred underwriting fees and issuance costs of \$2.7 million, which are netted against the convertible debenture liability.

It is the Company's intent to repay the principal amount of the convertible debentures at maturity using the revolving credit facility (Note 16).

The fair value of the Sixth series convertible unsecured subordinated debentures is measured based on Level 1 of the three-tier fair value hierarchy and was based upon market quotes for the identical instruments. The fair value as at September 28, 2024 was approximately \$57.3 million (September 30, 2023 - \$56.3 million).

## (B) SEVENTH SERIES:

On March 28, 2018, and on April 3, 2020, the Company issued \$85.0 million and \$12.8 million for a total of \$97.8 million, Seventh series, 4.75% convertible unsecured subordinated debentures ("Seventh series debentures"), maturing on June 30, 2025, with interest payable semi-annually in arrears on June 30 and December 31 of each year. The debentures may be converted at the option of the holder at any time prior to maturity at a conversion price of \$8.85 per share.

The debentures are redeemable at a price equal to the principal amount thereof plus accrued unpaid interest.

On redemption or on the maturity date, the Company will repay the indebtedness of the convertible debentures by paying an amount equal to the principal amount of the outstanding debentures, together with accrued and unpaid interest thereon.

The Company may, at its option, elect to satisfy its obligation to repay the principal amount of the convertible debentures, which are to be redeemed or which have matured, by issuing shares to the holders of the convertible debentures. The number of shares to be issued will be determined by dividing the indebtedness related to the convertible debenture by 95% of the then current market price on the day preceding the date fixed for redemption or the maturity date, as the case may be.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

21. Convertible unsecured subordinated debentures: (continued)

(B) SEVENTH SERIES (continued)

The Company allocated \$4.3 million (\$3.1 million net of tax) of the Seventh series debentures into an equity component. During the year, the Company recorded \$0.7 million (September 30, 2023 - \$0.6 million) in finance costs for the accretion of the Seventh series debentures

The Company incurred underwriting fees and issuance costs of \$4.5 million, which are netted against the convertible debenture liability.

The Company is currently assessing its options regarding the upcoming maturity of the Seventh series. The options include, but are not limited to, conversion to shares, refinancing the obligation using similar financial instrument or repayment of the obligation using other equity and/or debt instruments

The fair value of the Seventh series convertible unsecured subordinated debentures is measured based on Level 1 of the three-tier fair value hierarchy and was based upon market quotes for the identical instruments. The fair value as at September 28, 2024 was approximately \$96.7 million (September 30, 2023 - \$94.4 million).

22. Senior guaranteed notes:

In 2021, the Company issued a private placement of \$100 million in the form of senior guaranteed notes ("Notes") under a note purchase agreement entered into with certain institutional investors. The Notes are guaranteed and rank pari passu with the existing revolving credit facility. The Notes are due on April 30, 2031, bear interest at 3.49%, and interest is payable semi-annually in arrears in equal installments on April 30<sup>th</sup> and October 30<sup>th</sup> of each year and represent interest accrued from and including the date of issue of the Notes.

The Notes are classified and measured at amortized cost, using the effective interest method. The valuation model considers the present value of expected payments, discounted using a risk-adjusted discount rate. The fair value as at September 28, 2024 was approximately \$93.7 million (September 30, 2023 - \$81.8 million). The Company must comply with certain financial covenants related to these Notes on a quarterly basis. The Company was in compliance with the financial covenants at year end.

23. Share capital and other components of equity:

As of September 28, 2024, a total of 127,916,834 common shares (September 30, 2023 - 105,096,120) were outstanding.

In 2024, the Company issued 22,769,232 common shares at a price of \$5.18 per common share for gross proceeds of \$117.9 million pursuant to a bought deal public offering in Canada, and private offerings to Fonds de Solidarité des Travailleurs du Québec and an existing shareholder, Belcorp Industries Inc.

Share issuance costs of \$5.4 million (\$4.0 million after tax) were accounted for as a reduction in common shares on the consolidated statements of financial position and changes in shareholders' equity.

Net proceeds from the issuance of common shares amounted to \$112.5 million and will be used to finance the recently announced LEAP project, in accordance with the use of proceeds stated in the prospectus supplement filed on February 28, 2024, in connection with this common share offering.

During the year, 51,482 stock options have been exercised for proceeds of \$0.2 million (note 24) (724,075 stock options were exercised for proceeds of \$3.5 million and reversal of previously recognized share-based compensation recorded in contributed surplus of \$0.1 million for fiscal 2023).

The Company declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.09 per share for fiscals 2024 and 2023. The following dividends were declared by the Company:

	For the fiscal years ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Dividends	43,996	37,752

On November 27, 2024, the Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.09 per share, payable on or before January 9, 2025.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

### 23. Share capital and other components of equity: (continued)

#### Contributed surplus:

The contributed surplus account is used to record amounts arising on the issue of equity-settled share-based payment awards (see Note 24, Share-based compensation).

#### Capital management:

The Company's objectives when managing capital are:

- To ensure proper capital investment is done in the manufacturing infrastructure to provide stability and competitiveness of the operations;
- To have stability in the dividends paid to shareholders;
- To have appropriate cash reserves on hand to protect the level of dividends made to shareholders; and meet its operations needs to manage the business;
- To maintain an appropriate debt level so that there is no financial constraint on the use of capital, and;
- To have an appropriate line of credit, considering its leverage ratio.

The Company typically invests in its operations approximately \$25.0 to \$30.0 million yearly in capital expenditures. Management believes that these investments, combined with approximately \$45.0 to \$50.0 million spent on average annually on maintenance expenses, allow for the stability of the manufacturing operations and improve its cost competitiveness through new technology or process procedures.

The Board of Directors aims to ensure proper cash reserves are in place to maintain the current dividend level. Dividends to shareholders will only be approved after the Directors have carefully assessed a variety of factors that include the overall competitive landscape, volume and selling margin sustainability, the operating performance and capital requirements of the manufacturing plants and the sustainability of any increase.

The Company has a \$340.0 million revolving credit facility in addition to \$100 million senior guaranteed notes that have been issued in 2021. The Company estimates to use between \$100.0 million and \$255.0 million of its revolving credit facility to finance its normal operations and repayment of the convertible unsecured subordinated debentures-Sixth series during the first half of the fiscal 2025.

The Company monitors, on a quarterly basis, the ratio of total debt to earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization, adjusted for the impact of all derivative financial instruments ("adjusted EBITDA") of the operating company. Through required lenders' covenants, the debt ratio must be kept below 3.75:1. At year-end, the operating company's debt ratio was 1.40:1 for fiscal 2024 and 2.52:1 for fiscal 2023.

LEAP project is expected to provide incremental capacity of 100,000 metric tonnes of refined white sugar, at an expected estimated cost of \$280.0 to \$300.0 million. The Company is expected to finance this project using a combination of various financial instruments, including the revolving credit facility, IQ loans, and other debt and/or equity instruments.

IQ loans are made of two separate loans and are subject to same financial covenants as the revolving credit facility and are secured with specific LEAP project assets. IQ Loans are as follows:

A first loan in the amount of up to \$40.0 million was made to Lantic under the ESSOR program, a Québec government program designed to provide financing to Québec businesses (the "IQ Eссор Loan" ) and is to be used by Lantic for the acquisition of certain new equipment, included in the context of the LEAP Project. Lantic, as borrowers, will benefit from a 36-month capital repayment moratorium period as of the date of the first disbursement of the IQ Eссор Loan. At the end of such moratorium period, Lantic will repay the principal of the IQ Eссор Loan in 60 consecutive monthly installments.

A second term loan in the amount of \$25 million was extended to Lantic by Investissement Québec (the "IQ Term Loan" , and collectively with the IQ Eссор Loan, the "IQ Loans" ), such IQ Term Loan to be used to finance certain expenses and other acquisition of equipment, including in connection with the LEAP Project. Lantic, as borrowers, will benefit from a 24-month capital repayment moratorium period as of the date of the first disbursement of the IQ Term Loan. At the end of such moratorium period, Lantic will repay the principal of the IQ Term Loan in 20 consecutive quarterly installments.

No amount had been drawn on the IQ Loans as at September 28, 2024. On November 26, 2024, a first draw of \$7.4 million was received under the IQ Loans, \$5.0 million of which was borrowed under the Eссор Loan and \$2.4 million was borrowed under the IQ Term Loan.

The Company does not use equity ratios to manage its capital requirements.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 24. Share-based compensation:

## (A) EQUITY-SETTLED SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION:

The Company has reserved and set aside for issuance an aggregate of 6,000,000 common shares (September 30, 2023 – 6,000,000 common shares) at a price equal to the average market price of transactions during the last five trading days prior to the grant date. Options are exercisable to a maximum of twenty percent of the optioned shares per year, starting after the first anniversary date of the granting of the options and will expire after a term of ten years. Upon termination, resignation, retirement, death or long-term disability, all share options granted under the Share Option Plan not vested shall be forfeited.

No share options were granted during the 2024 fiscal year. On December 12, 2022, a total of 666,347 share options were granted at a price of \$5.85 per common share to certain executives.

The measurement date fair values were measured based on the Black-Scholes option pricing model. Expected volatility is estimated by considering historic average share price volatility. The inputs used in the measurement of the fair values of the share-based payment plans granted for fiscal 2023 are the following:

Total fair value of options	\$233,000
Share price	\$5.83
Exercise price	\$5.85
Expected volatility (weighted average volatility)	14.926% to 16.208%
Option life (expected weighted average life)	4 to 6 years
Expected dividends	6.17%
Weighted average risk-free interest rate (based on government bonds)	2.930% to 3.339%

Total share-based compensation expense is amortized over the service period and included in administration and selling expenses with an offsetting credit to contributed surplus. An expense of \$111,000 was recorded for the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$178,000).

The following table summarizes information about the share option plan as of September 28, 2024:

Exercise price per option	Outstanding number of options at September 30, 2023	Options granted during the period	Options exercised during the period	Options forfeited during the period	Outstanding number of options at September 28, 2024	Weighted average remaining life	Number of options exercisable
\$4.28	164,000	-	-	-	164,000	5.48	114,000
\$4.68	263,412	-	(51,482)	(51,482)	160,448	5.18	99,230
\$5.58	200,733	-	-	(53,892)	146,841	4.18	146,841
\$5.85	666,347	-	-	-	666,347	8.21	133,269
\$5.85	785,897	-	-	-	785,897	7.19	304,359
\$6.23	585,322	-	-	(193,368)	391,954	3.18	391,954
\$6.51	360,000	-	-	(150,000)	210,000	2.19	210,000
\$5.77	3,025,711	-	(51,482)	(448,742)	2,525,487	6.01	1,399,653

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 24. Share-based compensation: (continued)

## (A) EQUITY-SETTLED SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION: (CONTINUED)

The following table summarizes information about the share option plan as of September 30, 2023:

Exercise price per option	Outstanding number of options at October 1, 2022	Options granted during the period	Options exercised during the period	Options forfeited during the period	Outstanding number of options at September 30, 2023	Weighted average remaining life	Number of options exercisable
\$4.28	200,000	-	(36,000)	-	164,000	6.47	64,000
\$4.59	263,200	-	(263,200)	-	-	-	-
\$4.68	496,448	-	(233,036)	-	263,412	6.17	38,012
\$5.58	375,905	-	(175,172)	-	200,733	5.18	111,298
\$5.85	-	666,347	-	-	666,347	9.20	-
\$5.85	802,564	-	(16,667)	-	785,897	8.18	143,846
\$6.23	625,322	-	-	(40,000)	585,322	4.18	585,322
\$6.51	360,000	-	-	-	360,000	3.18	360,000
\$5.80	3,123,439	666,347	(724,075)	(40,000)	3,025,711	6.57	1,302,478

Options outstanding held by key management personnel amounted to 2,325,487 options as at September 28, 2024 and September 30, 2023 (see Note 29, Key management personnel).

## (B) CASH-SETTLED SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION-PERFORMANCE SHARE UNITS ("PSU"):

The value to be paid-out to each participant will be equal to the result of the number of PSUs granted to the participant which have vested, multiplied by the volume weighted average closing price of the Common Shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") for the five trading days immediately preceding the day on which the Company shall pay the value to the participant under the PSU plan, and such date will in no event occur after December 31 of the third calendar year following the calendar year in which the PSUs are granted.

The Board of Directors of the Company has the discretion to determine that all or a portion of the PSUs granted to a participant for which the vesting conditions have not been achieved shall vest to such participant.

Fiscal 2024 grant:

On December 11, 2023, a total of 559,963 PSUs were granted to executives of the Company at a price of \$5.42 per unit. In addition, an aggregate of 28,122 PSUs at a weighted-average share price of \$5.47 were allocated as a result of the dividend paid since inception, as the participants also receive dividend equivalents paid in the form of PSUs. As at September 28, 2024, an aggregate of 588,085 PSUs were outstanding in relation with this grant. These PSUs will vest at the end of the 2024-2026 performance cycle based on the achievement of total shareholder returns and other non market performance conditions, as set by the Board of Directors. Following the end of a performance cycle, the Board of Directors will determine, concurrently with the release of the Company's financial results for the fiscal year ended at the end of the performance cycle, whether the vesting conditions for the PSUs granted to a participant relating to such performance cycle have been achieved. Depending on the achievement of the vesting conditions, between 0% and 200% of the PSUs will become vested. The Board of Directors of the Company has the discretion to determine that all or a portion of the PSUs granted to a participant, for which the vesting conditions have not been achieved, shall vest to such participant.

The value to be paid-out to each participant will be equal to the result of: the number of PSUs granted to the participant which have vested, multiplied by the volume weighted average closing price of the Common Shares on the Toronto Stock Exchange (the "TSX") for the five trading days immediately preceding the day on which the Company shall pay the value to the participant under the PSU plan, and such date will in no event occur after December 31 of the third calendar year following the calendar year in which the PSUs are granted.

The fair values of the PSUs were established using a Monte Carlo simulation model for the portion subject to market performance conditions and the remaining portion which is based on certain non market measures will vest in equal tranches over a three-year period (one-third per year). The Company believes it is probable that certain non market performance conditions will be achieved. The fair value as at grant date was \$2,484,000 and \$3,042,000 as at September 28, 2024. An expense of \$1,014,000 related to this specific grant was recorded in administration and selling expenses. The liabilities arising from these PSUs as at September 28, 2024 were \$1,014,000.

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

24. Share-based compensation: (continued)

(B) CASH-SETTLED SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION-PERFORMANCE SHARE UNITS ("PSU"): (CONTUNUED)

Fiscal 2023 grant:

On December 12, 2022, a total of 310,964 PSUs were granted to executives of the Company. In addition, an aggregate of 36,464 PSUs at a weighted-average share price of \$5.63 were allocated as a result of the dividend paid during the quarters since inception, as the participants also receive dividend equivalents paid in the form of PSUs. As at September 28, 2024, an aggregate of 347,428 PSUs were outstanding. These PSUs will vest at the end of the 2023-2025 performance cycle.

The fair values of the PSUs were established using a Monte Carlo simulation model. The fair value as at grant date was \$980,000 and \$469,000 as at September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$260,000). An expense of \$6,000 was recorded for the year ended September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - expense of \$100,000) in administration and selling expenses. The liabilities arising from these PSUs as at September 28, 2024 were \$313,000 (September 30, 2023 - \$307,000).

Fiscal 2022 grant:

On December 6, 2021, a total of 386,709 PSUs were granted to executives of the Company. In addition, an aggregate of 71,566 PSUs at a weighted-average share price of \$5.77 were allocated as a result of the dividend paid during the quarters since inception, as the participants also receive dividend equivalents paid in the form of PSUs. As at September 28, 2024, an aggregate of 458,275 PSUs was outstanding. These PSUs will vest at the end of the 2022-2024 performance cycle.

The fair values of the PSUs were established using the Monte Carlo simulation model. The fair value as at grant date was \$1,493,000 and \$1,118,000 as at September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - \$1,361,000). An expense of \$77,000 was recorded for the year ended September 28, 2024 (September 30, 2023 - gain of \$318,000) in administration and selling expenses. The liabilities arising from the PSUs as at September 28, 2024 were \$1,118,000 (September 30, 2023 - \$1,041,000).

Fiscal 2021 grant:

During fiscal 2024, the grant related to fiscal 2021 was cash settled for an amount of \$3,755,000, and a gain of \$94,000 was recorded for the year ended September 28, 2024 (\$640,000 for grant related to fiscal 2020 during the year ended September 30, 2023, and a gain of \$15,000) in administration and selling expenses.

25. Commitments:

As at September 28, 2024, the Company had commitments to purchase a total of 1,554,000 metric tonnes of raw cane sugar up to fiscal 2027 (September 30, 2023 - 901,000 up to fiscal 2025), of which 254,786 metric tonnes had been priced (September 30, 2023 - 228,136), for a total dollar commitment of \$175.8 million (September 30, 2023 - \$187.2 million). In addition, the Company has a commitment of approximately \$45.5 million (September 30, 2023 - \$50.4 million) for sugar beets to be harvested and processed in fiscal 2025.

TMTC has \$6.8 million (September 30, 2023 - \$4.1 million) remaining to pay related to an agreement to purchase approximately \$6.8 million (2.0 million pounds) (September 30, 2023 - \$16.1 million; 4.7 million pounds) of maple syrup from the PPAQ in fiscal 2024. In order to secure bulk syrup purchases, the Company issued an insurance bond for an amount of \$18.7 million in favor of the PPAQ (September 30, 2023 - \$15.6 million). The insurance bond expires on March 15, 2025.

During the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024, the Company entered into capital commitments to complete its capital projects for a total of \$133.2 million (September 30, 2023 - \$19.9 million) to be incurred in fiscals 2025 and 2026, of which \$124.8 million relates to the LEAP project. In addition, subsequent to year end, the Company entered into commitments related to the LEAP project for a total \$33.7 million.

## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 26. Contingencies:

The Company, in the normal course of business, becomes involved from time to time in litigation and claims. While the final outcome with respect to claims and legal proceedings pending as at September 28, 2024 cannot be predicted with certainty, management believes that no provision was required and that the financial impact, if any, from claims related to normal business activities will not be material.

## 27. Earnings per share:

Reconciliation between basic and diluted earnings per share is as follows:

	For the fiscal years ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Basic earnings per share:		
Net earnings	53,729	51,789
Weighted average number of shares outstanding	118,143,883	104,561,422
Basic earnings per share	0.45	0.50
Diluted earnings per share:		
Net earnings	53,729	51,789
Plus impact of convertible unsecured subordinated debentures and share options	6,393	6,314
	60,122	58,103
Weighted average number of shares outstanding:		
Basic weighted average number of shares outstanding	118,143,883	104,561,422
Plus impact of convertible unsecured subordinated debentures and share options	29,108,857	28,795,036
	147,252,740	133,356,458
Diluted earnings per share	0.41	0.44

## 28. Supplementary cash flow information:

	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023	October 1, 2022
	\$	\$	\$
Non-cash transactions:			
Additions of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets included in trade and other payables	13,704	3,951	1,958
Increase in asset retirement obligation provision included in property, plant and equipment	9,670	350	100
Additions to right-of-use assets	3,174	12,093	8,842

Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

29. Key management personnel:

The Board of Directors as well as the executive team, which include the President and all the Vice-Presidents, are deemed to be key management personnel of the Company. The following is the compensation expense for key management personnel:

	For the fiscal years ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Salaries and short-term benefits	6,158	5,612
Attendance fees for members of the Board of Directors	1,459	1,188
Post-employment benefits	174	143
Share-based compensation (note 24)	1,114	181
	<b>8,905</b>	<b>7,124</b>

30. Personnel expenses:

	For the fiscal years ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Wages, salaries and employee benefits	128,834	118,595
Expenses related to defined benefit plans (note 20)	2,118	3,206
Expenses related to defined contributions plans	6,772	6,778
Share-based compensation (note 24)	1,114	181
	<b>138,838</b>	<b>128,760</b>

The personnel expenses were charged to the consolidated statements of earnings and comprehensive income or capitalized in the consolidated statements of financial position as follows:

	For the fiscal years ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Cost of sales	102,075	98,610
Administration and selling expenses	32,422	27,606
Distribution expenses	2,853	2,144
	<b>137,350</b>	<b>128,360</b>
Property, plant and equipment	1,488	400
	<b>138,838</b>	<b>128,760</b>



## Notes to consolidated financial statements

(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 31. Related parties:

Lantic has outstanding redeemable Class B special shares of \$44.5 million that are retractable and can be settled at Lantic's option by delivery of a note receivable from Belkorp Industries Inc., having the same value. The note receivable bears no interest and has no fixed terms of repayment. The Class B special shares are entitled to vote, but on a pro rata basis at a meeting of shareholders of Lantic. Under the terms of a voting trust agreement between Belkorp Industries Inc. and Rogers, Rogers is entitled to vote the Class B special shares so long as they remain outstanding. Due to the fact that Lantic has the intent and the legal right to settle the note receivable with the redeemable Class B special shares, these amounts have been offset and, therefore, are not presented on the consolidated statements of financial position.

Belkorp Industries Inc. also controls, through Lantic Capital, the two Lantic Class C shares issued and outstanding. The Class C shares entitle Lantic Capital to elect five of the seven directors of Lantic, but have no other voting rights at any meetings of shareholders of Lantic, except as may be required by law.

## 32. Segmented information:

The Company has two operating and reportable segments, sugar and maple. The principal business activity of the Sugar segment is the refining, packaging and marketing of sugar products. The Maple segment processes pure maple syrup and related maple products. The reportable segments are managed independently as they require different technology and capital resources. Performance is measured based on the segments' gross margins and results from operating activities. These measures are included in the internal management reports that are reviewed by the Company's President and CEO, and management believes that such information is the most relevant in the evaluation of the results of the segments.

Transactions between reportable segments are interest receivable (payable), which are eliminated upon consolidation.

	For the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024			
	Sugar	Maple	Corporate and eliminations	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenues	998,029	233,734	-	1,231,763
Cost of sales	847,169	208,722	-	1,055,891
Gross margin	150,860	25,012	-	175,872
Depreciation and amortization	22,169	6,674	-	28,843
Results from operating activities	87,467	12,345	(2,603)	97,209
Additions to property, plant and equipment and intangible assets, net of disposals	74,716	1,120	-	75,836
Increase in asset retirement obligation provision included in property, plant and equipment	9,670	-	-	9,670
Addition to right-of-use assets, net of disposals	3,046	128	-	3,174

	For the fiscal year ended September 28, 2024			
	Sugar	Maple	Corporate and eliminations	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total assets	1,025,379	218,547	(165,182)	1,078,744
Total liabilities	(539,733)	(161,860)	45,262	(656,331)

Notes to consolidated financial statements  
(In thousands of dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

32. Segmented information: (continued)

	For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023			
	Sugar	Maple	Corporate and eliminations	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenues	893,482	211,231	-	1,104,713
Cost of sales	749,085	189,902	-	938,987
Gross margin	144,397	21,329	-	165,726
Depreciation and amortization	19,511	6,775	-	26,286
Results from operating activities	88,915	8,453	(2,405)	94,963
Additions to property, plant and equipment and intangible assets, net of disposals	36,151	951	-	37,102
Increase in asset retirement obligation provision included in property, plant and equipment	350	-	-	350
Addition to right-of-use assets	11,667	78	-	11,745

	For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023			
	Sugar	Maple	Corporate and eliminations	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total assets	925,990	199,866	(164,955)	960,901
Total liabilities	(1,014,984)	(147,478)	508,457	(654,005)

Revenues were derived from customers in the following geographic areas:

	For the fiscal years ended	
	September 28, 2024	September 30, 2023
	\$	\$
Canada	997,245	893,043
United States	176,657	146,989
Europe	31,542	36,746
Other	26,319	27,935
	1,231,763	1,104,713

Substantially all of the non-current assets are located in Canada.