Business Week
4 June - 10 June

CPI Index for sporting goods remains negative

4 June 2007

The US Consumer Price Index (CPI) for sporting goods for April remained in the negative range of 1-2% that has been seen for several months.

April data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics placed the sporting goods index at 97.7, a 1.6% decrease versus the April 2006 index. The March index had shown a 0.7% decrease, the February index, a 1.8% decrease, and the January index, a 1.5% decrease.

For 2006, the sporting goods CPI averaged a 1.3% decline. For 2005, the decline averaged 1.1%; for 2004, 1.2%; for 2003, 0.8%; and for 2002, 2.6%.

Rbk Eurocamp hosts international basketball players

4 June 2007

For the fifth consecutive year, aspiring basketball players from around the world will arrive in Italy to showcase their skills and athleticism at the Rbk Eurocamp on June 9-12 at the La Ghirada sports complex in Treviso, Italy.

45 players from Europe, Africa and South America will have the opportunity to practise and play under the supervision of NBA coaches and in front of scouts, coaches and general managers from basketball teams and leagues across the world, including the NBA.

New shoe collection from Vaude

4 June 2007

Germany-based outdoor apparel and equipment manufacturer Vaude has launched a new shoe collection using its special footmapping concept, which has taken the company's design team two years to perfect.

Product manager Marco Lachner and his orthopaedic footwear team, led by Andreas Bornmann and Torsten Schröder, have designed 'shoe lasts' that are anatomically formed and created in conjunction with various special features to fit the entire foot.

The concept will be officially unveiled at OutDoor 2007 in Friedrichshafen on July 19-22, as will the Trek & Trail collection, which comprises 20 different shoe models, each available in three different colour combinations. It includes lightweight hiking boots for mountain and leisure walking tours, multi-functional cross-over shoes and rugged, all-terrain outdoor sandals.

Domino secures funding to expand Leather with Lycra collection

4 June 2007

US sporting apparel company Domino, Inc. has secured $1 million of funding from the Knight Group, which the company will use to expand sales and marketing efforts, broaden product development and offerings, develop additional collegiate cycling sponsorships, and pursue strategic partners for Leather with Lycra. Domino holds a long-term exclusive and renewable trademark licence from Invista North America S.a r.l and Invista Technologies S.a r.l., encompassing North America and Europe, for use of Invista's Leather with Lycra brand in connection with cycling, equestrian, motorcycling, skateboarding, and inline skating apparel categories. Domino is the first company to license the material for use in connection with sporting apparel.

Leather with Lycra fabric combines the protective, aesthetic and tactile qualities of leather with the stretch and recovery of Lycra. Unlike most leather applications in apparel, it is machine washable and dryable and maintains its performance qualities throughout the life of the garment.

Everlast to be acquired

4 June 2007

US designer, manufacturer and marketer of boxing and fitness related sporting goods equipment and a worldwide licensor of the Everlast brand for apparel, footwear, sporting goods equipment Everlast Worldwide Inc. has signed a definitive agreement to be acquired by investor group The Hidary Group, for $26.50 per share in cash, a 14.5% premium on its closing price on May 31, and a 30% premium to the average closing price over the last month. The total value of the all-cash transaction is over $146 million.

The agreement, which was approved by the board of directors of Everlast on June 1, is subject to stockholder approval and other customary conditions and is expected to be completed during the third quarter of 2007.

Wellman sells European PET resins business

4 June 2007

Continuing its strategy of focusing on its US chemical-based business, US manufacturer of polyester products Wellman, Inc. has sold its European PET Resins business to Sun European Partners, an affiliate of US investment firm Sun Capital Partners, Inc. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

The PET Resins business has the capacity to produce approximately 110 million pounds of PET resin annually.

Wellman's brands include PermaClear brand PET (polyethylene terephthalate) packaging resin and Fortrel brand polyester fibre.

EURATEX president voices concerns

4 June 2007

Speaking at the EURATEX general assembly, held in Brussels on June 1, Michele Tronconi, president of EURATEX, the European Apparel and Textile Organisation, expressed concern that current WTO negotiations in Geneva might not meet the high expectations and export ambitions of the EU textile and apparel industry.

Singling out the Doha Development Agenda, Mr Tronconi stated, "In tariff terms we appear to be moving without thinking towards substantial tariff reductions of our own, without any real expectation of improved market access where potential overseas markets are concerned. This is because of the different coefficients envisaged within the NAMA (non-agricultural market access) negotiations, linked to the flexibilities available there to developing countries." He noted that he had made these points very clearly in discussions with Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and Commission Vice-President Günther Verheugen in March and April of this year and had stated that "under the above circumstances we prefer no deal at all to a bad deal".

He also questioned the lack of information and consultation by certain services of the Commission as to the proposals which were likely to be made, when it was evident that they might have serious consequences for the industries and employees concerned. He also requested more information in respect of a study recently undertaken by the Commission in respect of the gap between import and retail prices in the EU-25 (a recent EURATEX analysis having shown that over a five-year period import prices had fallen by almost 25%, whilst retail prices had remained largely static.) "A similar degree of clarity together with an early decision is also needed, he said, by the Commission in respect of textile and apparel trade with China in the year 2008, during which time, contrary to the USA, the EU market will no longer be the subject of safeguard quotas."

EURATEX represents the textile and apparel industries of the EU-27 and of the EU's Customs Union partner, Turkey. It also has as members the candidate countries to the EU, the industry associations of the EFTA and Mediterranean rim countries, and has now formally welcomed the Russian industry among its members.

In 2006 the EU-27 textile and apparel industry employed close to 2.6 million workers, and had a turnover of €205 billion.

ITEMA launches new air-jet weaving machine at Shanghaitex

4 June 2007

Italy-based ITEMA Weaving, with its brands Somet, Vamatex, Sulzer Textil, ITEMA Shanghai, First and Fimtextile, unveiled its latest technical innovations in weaving machinery at Shanghaitex on June 1-4, including the brand new ITEMA L88 air-jet weaving machine.

Designed by an international team, the L88 has been developed to ensure higher productivity at minimal production costs. It is said to be easy-to-use, reliable and precise, and capable of delivering excellent, uncompromised fabric quality, ranging from simple printed material to high-class shirting, premium bed linen or dense-woven twills for work apparel.

Forzani Group dismisses recent speculation

5 June 2007

Said to be Canada's largest retailer of sporting goods The Forzani Group Ltd. has issued a statement in response to recent speculation about a possible takeover. Rumours have been circulating about several companies that have shown an interest in acquiring the company, including Cerberus Capital Management LP and Canadian Tire Corp. Ltd.

The company stated that it receives enquiries with respect to possible acquisitions or business combinations from time to time and has received such enquiries more frequently recently as it continues to perform well. However, it confirmed that none of these enquiries has resulted in a firm offer. It added that, it is not currently in negotiations with any party with respect to a business combination.

New concepts at SIMM

5 June 2007

The Madrid International Fashion Fair SIMM is to change

its image and layout, as well as introducing a new ambassador, known as SIMMY at the next show to be held on August 31 to September 2.

The different sections of SIMM have been renamed Gala, Diva, Perlas (Pearls), Alma (Soul), Eterna (Eternal), Alas (Wings), Besos (Kisses) and Libre (Free). Gala (Hall 1) will present the glamour of party-wear and eveningwear, featuring dresses hats and jewelled bags. Hall 3 will incorporate Perlas, which will include the collections of Anna Mora, Cadena La Maglia, Carmen Melero, Elisa Cortés, María Mariño and Mireia Bisbe, among others, representing eternal femininity.

Alongside this section Diva will be sensual and exuberant, with glamorous designs and accessories from Saga Ibáñez, Tapioca, Gizia, Chiara & Co, Sam Rone and Lacompel di Landi Andrea.

Alma in Hall 5, will be divided into four sections. Alma Aire, a trends workshop for new fashion ideas. Shapes, volumes and materials will appear at Alma Energía, while Alma Tierra will highlight natural textures, intense colours and handcrafted accessories. Alma Agua will feature swimwear from companies such as Beachcouture, Fantasy Love, Sol e Energía, Swim Days Beachwear and Espago Ben Brasil.

Meanwhile, Eterna located in Hall 7 will feature tweed, wool and cloth with a modern twist.

The fair is expected to host more than 800 exhibitors.

Kokatat sponsors Athabasca Expedition

5 June 2007

California-based watersports apparel manufacturer Kokatat is sponsoring ‘Connecting the Drops’, a two-month canoeing, hiking and mountaineering expedition that will depart on June 19.

The team of Don van Hout and David Lavallee will explore the 1,538 kilometre Athabasca River from the Columbia Icefields to the internationally protected Peace-Athabasca Delta, the largest inland freshwater delta in the world. They will ski to the summit of Mount Snowdome and then hike and paddle the headwaters of the Athabasca River in Jasper National Park, across Alberta to Lake Athabasca.

Hohenstein Institutes to unveil new odour analysis at Techtextil

5 June 2007

German research and service centre Hohenstein Institutes will unveil a new analytical method that can be used to characterise odour molecules in qualitative terms t Avantex/Techtextil in Frankfurt, Germany, on June 10-12.

The analysis, developed using GC/MS-technology, simulates the human nose and is able to identify odour molecules released from textiles and other materials, including the odour of human skin. It is also able to chemically determine the relevant odour molecules accurately, including representing the relevant chemical structure. However, unlike the human nose, the new process can also determine the exact quantity of odour molecules released.

New Michelin tyre inspires footwear line

5 June 2007

Having already launched a line of industrial work boots and Babolat pro tennis shoes, automotive tyre manufacturer Michelin has introduced a new casual footwear line, inspired by the company’s new Michelin Primacy MXV4 touring tyre.

According to the company, the new MXV4 footwear line is designed 'from the inside out' to provide comfort and performance in terms of grip and durability. It has two outsoles, inspired by the MXV4 tyre tread, and full grain premium leather uppers in a variety of different styles and colours.

It also features a patented ‘Advanced Rear Suspension’ cushioning system (a multi-chambered, shock-absorbing heel pad positioned between the insole and midsole), hand-sewn components to retain the shape and integrity of the shoe, and an Agion anti-microbial forefoot liner for odour control and resistance to fungal-related foot disorders.

Pakistan launches project to develop sporting goods sector

5 June 2007

The government of Pakistan, through the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA), has announced plans to expand the country’s sporting goods and leather sectors and is now seeking proposals from interested parties.

The firms short-listed to participate in the project will work with business leaders, industry associations, government officials and other major stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive diagnostic study based on benchmarking Pakistani companies with international players, as well as proposing a detailed sector development strategy and a roadmap for its implementation.

Successful firms will then work in partnership with SMEDA for a 12-month period in order to design and implement strategies to improve each sector's

performance. The deadline for proposals is June 30.

According to SMEDA, the purpose of the project is to reposition the sectors in the global market in order to secure long-term competitiveness and improve exports, through public and private sector investment, with an emphasis on transferring skills, networks, tools, working methods, joint ventures and technical collaboration.

Pakistan exported sporting goods worth $193.9 million in FY07 (July to March) compared with $232 million in first nine months of FY06.

Tavex expands in Mexico

5 June 2007

Spanish producer of denim and workwear fabrics Tavex Group has acquired the assets—including buildings, facilities, and machinery at two sites in Puebla and Tlaxcala—from Mexican company Acabados y Cortes Textiles, S.A. de C.V., which will increase the company's manufacturing capacity in the country to 30 million metres.

Based in Madrid, Tavex has a worldwide annual capacity of 200 million metres of denim fabrics, and twills for sportswear and workwear. It has plants in Spain, Mexico, Morocco, Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

DuPont launches new renewably sourced polymer line

5 June 2007

DuPont has launched a new patented, high performance polyols (polyetherdiols) polymer family, DuPont Cerenol, which is made from 100% renewable resources. The product line joins DuPont Sorona as the newest polymer family made with corn instead of petroleum.

Cerenol is said to enhance the performance of a diverse portfolio of end-use products including running shoes and ski boots, and spandex fibre applications and can replace petroleum-based ingredients or finished products without compromising functionality.

"Since customers want environmentally smart options that do not compromise performance, we are pleased to now offer both Sorona and Cerenol—two high performance polymers that are engineered to meet or exceed the performance of their petroleum-based counterparts," said Bio-Based Materials vice president and general manager Peter Hemken.

Rieter opens new Chinese production facility

5 June 2007

More than 300 guests, including customers, local government officials, attended the opening of Swiss textile systems manufacturer Rieter's new production facility in Changzhou, China, on May 31.

The new plant consists of assembly and production facilities as well as new office space, and a new showroom which will display the company's major textile products such as blowroom, carding, drawframes and end-spinning machines.

Including the new plant in Changzhou, the company now operates three plants and six sales offices in China.

Italian machinery sector prepares for ITMA

6 June 2007

Having enjoyed a successful year in 2006, the Italian textile machinery industry is preparing to showcase its latest innovations at the International Exhibition of Textile Machinery (ITMA) in Munich on September 13-20, where producers will present their most recent products and services.

New developments for the dyeing sector will include hank dyeing cabinet or arm machines, yarn dyeing technologies for cones on vertical or horizontal spindles, piece dyeing with extra equipment for rope dyeing through jet or flow technology, and jigger or beam dyeing equipment.

Other innovations to be featured will include a system of printing machines with annexed integrated equipment for unwinding, transporting and winding of the finished material, machinery for sublimation printing which works both continuously and with the positioned single sheet, machines designed for special 'handle' treatments, discontinuous machines with autoclave equipment and continuous decating lines, and machines for brushing, calendering, polishing, embossing, suede finishing, raising and shearing.

The finishing machine sector enjoyed a particularly successful year in 2006, accounting for 21% of the country's textile machinery industry's turnover, totalling approximately €560 million ($757 million), of which over 78% was exported (€440 million in 2006). The main export destinations are India (€39 million), China (€31 million), Turkey (€31 million), Germany (€22 million) and the United States (€22 million).

Hohenstein to present new Solartex project at Techtextil

6 June 2007

Germany's Hohenstein Institutes will present the prototype of a men's outdoor jacket that supplies the energy for electronic devices such as an mp3 player using integrated solar cells at Avantex/Techtextil in Frankfurt on June 10-12.

Developed in conjunction with the Institute of Physical Electronics at the University of Stuttgart, through the Solartex project, the optimised plug connections and flexible, mechanically stable solar cells, have led to a prototype that not only powers small electrical devices but that can also withstand domestic laundering.

Since 2003, nine partners from the textile industry and research centres, including the Hohenstein Institutes, have been looking at ways of integrating solar cells into clothing as part of the Solartex combined research project.

New journey at Interfilière

6 June 2007

On September 1-3, Interfilière will host 370 international exhibitors in Lyon, France.

It will include representatives from the fibre, embroidery, lacemaking, fabric and accessories manufacturing, printing, machinery and design sectors. A variety of fabrics will be on show for use in men's and women's intimate apparel, clothing and children's wear.

There will be an eleven-stage route through the fair, starting from the International Village and winding its way through to 'Lifestyle', via 'Delicious audacity', 'Men', 'Scrapbooking' and 'Lounging', among others.

Peak Performance makes new appointments

6 June 2007

Sweden-based ski and golf wear designer Peak Performance has appointed new members of staff as part of its plan to reorganise its international sales and marketing department, which began in 2005. The restructuring progress is designed to increase the company's presence beyond the Nordic region.

Jörgen Weiss will be in charge of European sales as of July 17. He previously worked for Helly Hansen, where he was European sales director, and prior to this he worked for Nike Europe. Mr Weiss will be based in Munich, and will focus on Central and Southern Europe. Tobias Andreasson, sales manager Sweden, will be responsible for sales in the Nordic region.

As of May 7, Joakim Gip will take over as marketing director. He joins the company from the Stockholm Design Lab and has worked for Vizeum AB, H&M and Ikea, both in Sweden and internationally.

Ann Larsson has been appointed CFO and will take up her new position on June 11.

Marathon winner defies shoe ban and sets records

6 June 2007

David Cheruiyot set a course record when he won the recent 2007 Ottawa Marathon in Canada in a pair of shoes manufactured by controversial shoemaker Spira Footwear. Mr Cheruiyot completed the course in 2:10:35, a personal best by over two minutes.

The shoes, which contain Spira's patented WaveSpring technology, do not comply with USA Track and Field Rule 143, which specifically bans spring technology in footwear for competition. The shoes may also violate IAAF rule 143, which bans any technology that provides an "unfair advantage".

Spira submitted its shoes to the IAAF for review and approval in September 2006, but the worldwide governing body for Track and Field has been unable to provide Spira with an answer. The company recently initiated a lawsuit against both the USATF and IAAF alleging that their rules which ban spring technology constitutes a restraint of trade in violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

Mr Cheruiyot, who has been training and racing in the shoes for six months, credits the shoe company for his success, stating, "I am far less fatigued after racing and training in Spira compared with any other shoes. As a result I have suffered no injuries and can train and race at more intense pace, and I find that my recovery time following a race or a hard workout is greatly reduced."

As a result of his victory in Ottawa, he was awarded $15,000 first prize and a $4,000 bonus for setting the course record. Two other runners wearing the footwear, Hilary Kimaiyo and David Karanja, finished in fifth and eighth place in respective times of 2:11:13 and 2:17:01.

Paxar launches roll-to-roll heat transfer applicator

6 June 2007

US-based identification and tracking systems for the apparel and retail markets Paxar Corporation has introduced a new roll-to-roll automatic heat transfer machine, HS70 TRR, which is designed for a wide range of roll transfer applications.

Key features include a short dwell time, taking between 0.5 and four seconds to seal a label of decoration to a finished garment or in-process fabric; a quick cycle time, after a cycle, the machine is instantly ready for the next garment as soon as the operator can feed it; a bottom heating option, heat can be applied to both the top and bottom, allowing dual heat which reduces seal time and can increase throughput; and a simple control panel screen.

Designed for table-top use, the HS70 TRR is said to be compact and durable. Its applicator head incorporates a non-stick Teflon coating to ensure that the labels are transferred cleanly onto the receiver material.

REACH training course held in China

6 June 2007

With the aim of preparing Chinese chemical companies for the implementation of the EU's REACH regulations on June 1, a REACH training course, sponsored by WTO affairs department of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and Guangdong Department of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, was held at the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals & Chemicals Importers & Exporters and China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Association on May 31.

250 representatives from the industry in Guangdong, Jiangxi, Hunan, Fujian and Hainan provinces took part in the course, which presented the implications of the regulations and the standards which needed to be met.

DuPont raises prices for Elvanol PVA/PVOH

6 June 2007

DuPont Packaging & Industrial Polymers has announced a worldwide price increase of $0.08/lb for all grades of DuPont Elvanol polyvinyl alcohol (PVA/PVOH), effective July 1, or as contracts permit.

DuPont cited sustained high energy and transportation costs and raw material cost volatility as the reason for the increase.

Elvanol polyvinyl alcohol is used in a variety of industries including textiles, paper, adhesives and films.

Jones Apparel makes new sportswear appointment

7 June 2007

US branded apparel, footwear and accessories company Jones Apparel Group, Inc. has promoted Susan Rieland to the position of chief merchandising officer, Bridge and Lifestyle Sportswear brands, effective immediately.

She will continue to have merchandising responsibility for the Jones New York Signature, Jones New York Sport and AK Anne Klein brands and will have added responsibility for Anne Klein New York bridge sportswear. She will continue to report to CEO, Wholesale Sportswear, Suits and Dresses, Lynne Cote.

Having joined the company in 1995 as vice president of sales for Jones & Co Ms Rieland has also served as president of Casual Design.

South Korea contributes to record Q1 earnings at Guess?

7 June 2007

For the first quarter of fiscal 2008, US-based apparel and accessories designer Guess? reported record net earnings of $35.5 million, an increase of 71.9% compared with $20.7 million for the quarter ended April 29, 2006. This represents the 15th consecutive quarter of earnings growth at the company.

Total net revenue for the first quarter increased 42.3% to $377.9 million from $265.7 million in the prior-year period. Its retail stores in the USA and Canada generated revenue of $179.5 million in the period, a 19% increase from $150.9 million in the same period a year ago.

Wholesale revenue, which includes Asian operations, increased 77.4% to $59.2 million in the first quarter from $33.4 million in the prior-year period, while net revenue from the company's European segment increased 77.2% to $118.9 million compared with $67.1 million. Licensing net revenue increased 41.5% to $20.3 million from $14.3 million.

Commenting on the strong performance, chief executive officer Paul Marciano said, "In Europe, the addition of Focus Europe, our contemporary line, and the growth of our existing businesses drove a 77% sales increase in the segment. Strong sales performance in South Korea drove Asian revenues higher and led to a 77% increase in our wholesale segment revenues." He added, "Our North American retail business performed extremely well, posting its 17th consecutive quarter of same store sales growth."

Freudenberg Nonwovens to present new solutions at Techtextil

7 June 2007

Germany-based nonwovens producer Freudenberg Nonwovens will showcase some of its latest developments at Techtextil in Frankfurt, Germany, on

June 12-14.

One of the new launches at show will be the extension of its patented microfilament Evolon technology for alternative polymers and lighter weights. The technology offers benefits such as light drape combined with non-directional mechanical strength, good barrier properties combined with high breathability, liquid absorption and lower fibre release, among others.

The company will also present a prototype nonwoven with an 'intelligence quotient', Vilene iQ. The heatable material, which can be fused onto garment fabrics, combines a nonwoven fabric and metallic yarns coated with an adhesive so that it can be laminated to various fabrics.

The company will also introduce the Stella Project (Stretchable Electronics for Large Area Applications), an EC-funded project to develop a new technology platform for stretchable electronics.

Gore forms partnership with Ashworth

7 June 2007

WL Gore & Associates will partner California-based golf-inspired sportswear designer Callaway Golf apparel to launch various Gore-Tex and Windstopper golf garments currently available in the European market in the USA. The range of outerwear called Tour Authentic—designed to offer golfers comfort in extreme weather conditions—will be available from September.

Bangladesh textile sector secures UK investment

7 June 2007

According to Bangladeshi media reports the country's Board of Investment has signed a memorandum of understanding with eight British companies that will secure investment of $930 million for the textile and leather garments sector, as well as tourism, food products, construction, hotels, finance and energy.

Sales surge at Zumiez

7 June 2007

US retailer of action sports-related footwear and apparel Zumiez Inc. has reported an impressive 51.6% rise in total net sales for the four-week period ended June 2. Sales reached $22.7 million from the $15 million for the comparable four-week period a year earlier. Comparable store sales also increased, rising 11.2% for the four-week period.

Reebok expands in Asia

7 June 2007

Continuing its retail expansion strategy, Reebok has opened a new store in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the brand's fourth outlet in the city.

Speaking at the store's official opening, managing director for India, Subhinder Singh Prem said, "The region has always been important to Reebok as a resource but in recent years it's become the fastest growing regional market."

The opening event also saw the launch of the Reebok Pump Paris Trainer, which is said to be the first Reebok shoe to marry the best Reebok technologies to enhance both upper and lower foot comfort.

Everlast and Michelin to launch footwear line

7 June 2007

US manufacturer of sporting goods, apparel, and footwear Everlast Worldwide Inc., has signed a global licence agreement with Michelin Lifestyle Limited to create a new line of technical professional boxing footwear using patented tread technology inspired by the Michelin's HydroEdge tyre, to be launched in spring of 2008.

The outsole of the footwear will feature a high-tech rubber compound and sculpture specifically tailored to channel liquid away from the shoe giving professional boxers optimum traction, strength and durability during training and competition.

Performance Fibers further expands polyester yarn facilities

7 June 2007

In response to customer demand, US-based producer of polyester fibres and materials Performance Fibers will expand polyester yarn production in Germany for the second time since acquiring the business last year.

The company said it will invest in spinning machines in early 2008 at its Bad Hersfeld plant to increase capacity of tie-yarn for weft-insertion fabrics by 30%.

The planned expansion follows a multi-million dollar investment in modernised draw winder machinery to be completed in July that expands capacity for low-denier industrial (LDI) yarn by more than 10%. These yarns are used in sewing, embroidery, outdoor fabric, awnings, banners, outdoor signs, flags, technical textiles and apparel.

“These two recent investments keep our state-of-the-art facility in Bad Hersfeld competitive and meet our customers’ needs for these specialised yarns,” said Greg Rogowski, president and CEO.

Celanese raises emulsions prices Increase in North America

7 June 2007

US-based polymer emulsions producer Celanese will increase the price of all of its PVAc homopolymer, VAE co-polymer, acrylic and vinyl-acrylic emulsions sold in North America by up to 10%, effective July 1, or as contracts allow.

The products are used in a broad range of industrial and consumer end-use applications including adhesives, coatings, engineered fabrics, textiles and paper.

Sportswear lifts sales at G-III Apparel

8 June 2007

US manufacturer of outerwear and sportswear G-III Apparel Group, Ltd. has posted net sales of $35.1 million for the first quarter ended April 30 compared with $14.4 million in the prior-year period. Net loss was $6.4 million compared with $8.9 million during the corresponding period last year.

Chairman and CEO Morris Goldfarb said, “Our sportswear and women’s suit and dress categories each contributed to the overall improvement in financial performance. With the recently announced asset acquisition of the Jessica Howard, Eliza J. and Industrial Cotton businesses, we believe that we have accelerated our growth opportunities in the dress and junior sportswear areas.”

May sales of $199.2 million at American Eagle Outfitters

8 June 2007

US clothing, footwear and swimwear retailer American Eagle Outfitters, Inc. has reported total sales of $199.2 million for the four weeks ended June 2, an increase of 18% compared with $168.8 million for the four-week period ended May 27, 2006. Due to the 53rd week in fiscal 2006, May 2007 figures are compared with the four-week period ended June 3, 2006.

Total year-to-date sales increased 17% to $811.6 million compared with $691.2 million for the 17-week period ended May 27, 2006.

Dow increase global acrylates prices

8 June 2007

The Dow Chemical Company has announced price increases for acrylic acid and esters, also known as acrylic monomers or acrylates, effective July 1, or as contracts allow.

Butyl Acrylate/2-Ethylhexyl Acrylate prices will increase by $0.05 per pound in North America, by €90 per metric ton in Europe, and by $120 per metric ton in Asia Pacific, the Middle East/Africa and Latin America.

The prices for Ethyl Acrylate/Methyl Acrylate/Glacial Acrylic Acid will be raised by $0.03 per pound in North America, by €50 per metric ton in Europe, and by $70 per metric ton in Asia Pacific by, the Middle East/Africa and Latin America.

“The need for these increases is driven by an industry-wide butanol and 2-ethylhexyl supply/demand imbalance,” explained global business director for the Acrylic Monomers business, Mark Bassett. “This has reached such a critical point that production is not able to meet demand. This increase also attempts to recover increases in the cost of raw materials, such as propylene and natural gas.”

New Bodyfashion trends from Nilit

8 June 2007

Israel-based producer of nylon 6.6 Nilit has unveiled its new trend concepts for bodywear for autumn/winter 2008/09, and for active sportswear for spring/summer 2009 in its Bodyfashion Trendbook.

Three trends are defined for bodywear for autumn/winter 2008/09: Antique Charm, which combines vintage influences with subtle colours and cotton-look handmade finishes; Sentimental, which is extrovert and opulent, using a mixture of floral prints, patterns and colours; and Urban Connection, which is strong and seductive, inspired by urban influences and glamorous grunge aesthetics.

Its collection for active sportswear for spring/summer 2009 also includes three trends with a focus on performance. Fitness Synergy is a women’s activewear line with a variety of styles for dance and fitness; the Great Outdoors activewear range focuses on lightness and comfort with ergonomic designs that merge function with high performance, whilst body-shaping panels offer flexibility, moisture management and supportive shaping; whilst the Pro Action collection is designed for performance-oriented sports such as running, cycling and climbing, in which seamless sportswear adds protection by providing knitted structures with reinforced zones.

Under Armour signs distribution agreement for Benelux region

8 June 2007

US-based branded apparel, footwear and accessories group Under Armour, Inc. has signed an agreement with Netherlands-based integrated wholesale and retail organisation Unlimited Sports Group to manage the distribution of Under Armour products to Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

Under Armour has made international expansion a priority for long-term growth and this partnership will allow the brand to continue building its European presence.

New ideas at Material World New York

8 June 2007

Four key growth areas have been introduced for Material World New York, which will take place on September 25-27. The categories are Eco-Friendly, Performance, Product Lifestyle Management (PLM) and Design Technology. Eco-Friendly will focus on renewable resources including organic cotton, soya and Ingeo. Performance will look at the latest developments in moisture management, UV protection, anti-microbial and other performance-related issues, PLM will present new technologies offering quicker time-to-market and helping to meet consumer demand, while Design Technology will explore CAD/CAM software, trends, colour and prototyping solutions.

Approximately 475 exhibitors are expected to participate at the show, which is organised by the American Apparel and Footwear Association.