UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC

20549

FORM 10-Q

QUARTERLY REPORT UNDER SECTION 13 OR 15(d)

OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Quarter Ended September 26, 1999 Commission File No. 1-11261

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY

Incorporated under the laws of South Carolina

I.R.S. Employer Identification No. 57-0248420

Post Office Box 160

Hartsville, South Carolina 29551-0160

Telephone: 843-383-7000

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

Yes [X] No [ ]

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock at October 31, 1999:

Common stock, no par value: 101,968,833

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY

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SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Dollars and shares in thousands)

	(unaudited) September 26, 1999	December 31, 1998*
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 52,124	$ 57,249
Trade and other accounts receivable, net of allowances	390,247	352,147
Inventories:		
Finished and in process	119,733	93,829
Materials and supplies	130,599	123,432
Prepaid expenses and other	28,381	29,465
Net assets held for sale	--	5,294
	721,084	661,416
Property, Plant and Equipment, Net	1,039,280	1,013,843
Cost in Excess of Fair Value of Assets Purchased, Net	252,419	170,361
Other Assets	276,902	237,363
Total Assets	$ 2,289,685	$ 2,082,983
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current Liabilities		
Payable to suppliers	$ 179,465	$ 174,218
Accrued expenses and other	152,618	149,467
Notes payable and current portion of long-term debt	106,204	96,806
Taxes on income	15,778	15,578
	454,065	436,069
Long-Term Debt	790,607	686,826

Postretirement Benefits Other than Pensions	39,731	43,689
Deferred Income Taxes and Other	124,397	94,807
Shareholders' Equity		
Common stock, no par value		
Authorized 300,000 shares		
101,969 and 101,683 shares issued and outstanding		
at September 26, 1999 and December 31, 1998, respectively	7,175	7,175
Capital in excess of stated value	436,974	431,465
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(120,874)	(95,139)
Retained earnings	557,610	478,091
Total Shareholders' Equity	880,885	821,592
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	$ 2,289,685	$ 2,082,983

* The year-end condensed consolidated balance sheet data was derived from audited financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles.

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (unaudited)
(Dollars and shares in thousands except per share data)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27, 1998	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27, 1998
Net sales	$ 620,027	$ 606,981	$ 1,792,260	$ 1,917,905
Cost of sales	476,069	467,703	1,368,603	1,475,327
Selling, general and administrative expenses	63,427	66,786	183,442	196,119
Gain on assets held for sale	--	--	3,500	85,360
Income before interest and taxes	80,531	72,492	243,715	331,819
Interest expense	12,914	13,256	37,230	40,490
Interest income	(1,310)	(1,511)	(4,040)	(4,282)
Income before income taxes	68,927	60,747	210,525	295,611
Provision for income taxes	25,542	22,647	78,708	139,747
Income before equity in earnings of affiliates/ Minority interest in subsidiaries	43,385	38,100	131,817	155,864
Equity in earnings of affiliates/Minority interest in subsidiaries	1,882	1,639	4,761	4,311
Net income before extraordinary loss	45,267	39,739	136,578	160,175
Extraordinary loss from early extinguishment of debt, net of income tax benefit	--	--	--	11,753
Net income	$ 45,267	$ 39,739	$ 136,578	$ 148,422

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME (unaudited), continued
(Dollars and shares in thousands except per share data)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27, 1998	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27, 1998
Average common shares outstanding:				
Basic	101,946	101,976	101,877	102,988
Assuming exercise of options	953	1,171	976	1,776
Diluted	102,899	103,147	102,853	104,764
Per common share				
Net income:				
Basic, before extraordinary loss	$ .44	$ .39	$ 1.34	$ 1.55
Extraordinary loss, net of income tax benefit	--	--	--	(.11)
Basic	$ .44	$ .39	$ 1.34	$ 1.44
Diluted, before extraordinary loss	$ .44	$ .39	$ 1.33	$ 1.53
Extraordinary loss, net of income tax benefit	--	--	--	(.11)
Diluted	$ .44	$ .39	$ 1.33	$ 1.42
Dividends per common share	$ .19	$ .18	$ .56	$ .524

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (unaudited)
(Dollars in thousands)

	Nine Months Ended	
	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27, 1998
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	$ 171,055	$ 146,052
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(94,314)	(154,928)
Cost of acquisitions, exclusive of cash	(180,684)	(72,524)
Proceeds from non-operating notes receivable	34,000	--
Proceeds from the sale of assets	15,692	296,861
Investments in affiliates	(14,568)	--
Other, net	(688)	(1,614)
Net cash (used) provided by investing activities	(240,562)	67,795

Cash Flows From Financing Activities:		
Proceeds from issuance of debt	124,988	144,008
Principal repayment of debt	(68,004)	(155,269)
Net increase (decrease) in commercial paper borrowings	61,800	(13,500)
Cash dividends	(57,059)	(53,736)
Common shares acquired	(217)	(169,080)
Common shares issued	4,277	27,362
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	65,785	(220,215)
Effects of exchange rate changes on cash	(1,403)	(331)
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(5,125)	(6,699)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	57,249	53,600
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	$ 52,124	$ 46,901

See accompanying Notes to Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY
NOTES TO CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(unaudited)

Note 1: Basis of Interim Presentation

In the opinion of the management of Sonoco Products Company (the "Company"), the accompanying unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements contain all adjustments (consisting of only normal recurring adjustments) necessary to present fairly the consolidated financial position, results of operations , and cash flows for the interim periods reported hereon. Operating results for the three and nine months ended September 26, 1999, are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the year ending December 31, 1999. These condensed consolidated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included in the Company's annual report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1998.

Note 2: Dividend Declarations

On July 21, 1999, the Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly dividend of $.19 per share. This dividend was paid September 10, 1999, to all shareholders of record August 20, 1999.

October 11, 1999, the Board of Directors declared a regular quarterly dividend of $.19 per share payable December 10, 1999, to all shareholders of record November 19, 1999.

Note 3: Acquisitions/Dispositions

During the first quarter of 1999, Sonoco completed the acquisition of Wood Composite Technology, a manufacturer of composite (i.e. wood and plastic) reels serving the wire and cable markets. The acquisition is expected to add approximately $10 million of sales annually to the Industrial Packaging segment. Sonoco also acquired tube and core operations in Brazil and Taiwan from Conitex, a wholly owned subsidiary of Texpack, a joint venture partner.

During the third quarter of 1999, Sonoco completed two acquisitions in the Company's Consumer Packaging segment. In August, Sonoco completed the purchase of the composite can assets of Crown Cork & Seal, Inc. This acquisition consisted of three manufacturing facilities in the United States with annual sales of approximately $32 million. In September, Sonoco completed the acquisition of the flexible packaging division of Graphic Packaging Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of ACX Technologies, Inc. Graphic's flexible packaging operations had 1998 sales of approximately $120 million.

Also, in the first quarter of 1999, Sonoco completed the sale of its labels and label machinery businesses in the United Kingdom and a label machinery business in the United States. These operations had sales of approximately $34 million in 1998 and $4.4 million in 1999. The completion of the sale of these operations resulted in the recognition of a $3.5 million gain.

The total cost of acquisitions in 1999 was $180.7 million.

Note 4: Comprehensive Income

The following table provides a reconciliation from net income to comprehensive income (dollars in thousands):

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27, 1998	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27, 1998
Net income	$ 45,267	$ 39,739	$ 136,578	$148,422
Other comprehensive income:				
Foreign currency translation adjustments	(2,200)	(528)	(25,735)	3,263
Comprehensive income	$ 43,067	$ 39,211	$ 110,843	$151,685

The following table summarizes the components of the current period change in the accumulated other comprehensive loss balances (dollars in thousands):

	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Minimum Pension Liability Adjustment	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss
Balance at January 1, 1999	$ (88,228)	$ (6,911)	$ (95,139)
Year to date change	(25,735)	--	(25,735)
Balance at Sept. 26, 1999	$(113,963)	$ (6,911)	$(120,874)

Note 5: New Accounting Pronouncement

On June 15, 1998, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" (FAS 133). FAS 133 is effective for all fiscal quarters of all fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2000 and requires that all derivative instruments be recorded on the balance sheet at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of derivatives are recorded each period in current earnings or other comprehensive income, depending on whether a derivative is designated as part of a hedge transaction and, if it is, the type of hedge transaction. Management of the Company anticipates that, due to its limited use of derivative instruments, the adoption of FAS 133 will not have a significant effect on the Company's results of operations or its financial position.

Note 6: Financial Segment Information

Sonoco reports its results in two primary segments, Industrial Packaging and Consumer Packaging. The Industrial Packaging segment includes the following businesses: engineered carriers/paper (paper and plastic tubes and cores, paper manufacturing and recovered paper operations) and protective packaging (designed interior packaging and protective reels). The Consumer Packaging segment includes the following businesses: composite cans; flexible packaging (printed flexibles, bag and film products, and container seals); and specialty packaging and services (folding cartons, covers and coasters, graphics management, and packaging centers).

FINANCIAL SEGMENT INFORMATION (Unaudited)
(Dollars in thousands)

	Three Months Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27 1998	Sept. 26, 1999	Sept. 27, 1998
Net Sales				
Industrial Packaging	$ 340,456	$ 324,813	$ 986,727	$ 970,390
Consumer Packaging	279,571	259,494	796,860	770,211
Other*	--	22,674	8,673	177,304
Consolidated	$ 620,027	$ 606,981	$ 1,792,260	$ 1,917,905
Operating Profit				
Industrial Packaging	$ 46,047	$ 45,342	$ 137,451	$ 148,683
Consumer Packaging	34,677	27,769	102,881	90,963
Other*	(193)	(619)	(117)	6,813
Net gain on assets held for sale	--	--	3,500	85,360
Interest expense, net	(11,604)	(11,745)	(33,190)	(36,208)
Consolidated	$ 68,927	$ 60,747	$ 210,525	$ 295,611

* Includes net sales and operating results of divested businesses and entities previously consolidated which have been contributed to joint ventures and are no longer consolidated by Sonoco.

Note 7: Income Taxes

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has examined the Company's federal income tax returns for all years through 1992. Currently, the 1993 through 1995 federal income tax returns are being examined. The IRS has proposed various adjustments to the Company's tax returns for the years currently under examination. After review of the proposed adjustments, management of the Company believes that its provision for income tax is adequate under the circumstances based on the specific facts of the Company's operations.

Report of Independent Accountants

To the Shareholders and Directors of Sonoco Products Company

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet of Sonoco Products Company as of September 26, 1999, and the related condensed consolidated statements of income for each of the three-month and nine-month periods ended September 26, 1999 and September 27, 1998, and the condensed consolidated statements of cash flows for the nine-month periods ended September 26, 1999 and September 27, 1998. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management.

We conducted our review in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures to financial data and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying condensed consolidated interim financial statements for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

We previously audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 1998, and the related consolidated statements of operations, changes in shareholders' equity and cash flows for the year then ended (not presented herein), and in our report dated January 27, 1999, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those consolidated financial statements. In our opinion, the information set forth in the accompanying condensed consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 1998, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the consolidated balance sheet from which it has been derived.

/s/PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Charlotte, North Carolina
November 10, 1999

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY

Item 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

(UNAUDITED)

Statements included in Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations that are not historical in nature are intended to be, and are hereby identified as "forward looking statements" for purposes of the safe harbor provided by section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding offsetting high raw material costs, adequacy of income tax provision, refinancing of debt, adequacy of cash flows, and the cost and effectiveness of Year 2000 measures. Such forward-looking statements are based on current expectations, estimates and projections about our industry, management's beliefs and certain assumptions made by management. Such information includes, without limitation, discussions as to estimates, expectations, beliefs, plans, strategies, and objectives concerning our future financial and operating performance. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in such forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, without limitation: availability and pricing of raw materials; success of new product development and introduction; ability to maintain or increase productivity levels; international, national and local economic and market conditions; ability to maintain market share; pricing pressures and demand for products; continued strength of our paperboard-based tube, core and composite can operations; currency stability and the rate of growth in foreign markets; and actions of government agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service.

THIRD QUARTER 1999 COMPARED WITH THIRD QUARTER 1998

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Consolidated net sales for the third quarter of 1999 were $620.0 million, compared with $607.0 million in the third quarter of 1998. Last year's third quarter included sales from divested operations including the Company's former labels and label machinery businesses in North America and the United Kingdom, and the Industrial Containers business. It also included sales from the Company's paper cone operations that were subsequently contributed to a joint venture in which Sonoco is a minority owner. On a comparable basis, excluding divested businesses and entities previously consolidated which have been contributed to joint ventures and are no longer consolidated by Sonoco, sales for the third quarter of 1999 from ongoing operations were $620.0 million, versus $584.3 million in the third quarter of 1998.

MARGIN COMPARISON

	3rd Quarter 1999	3rd Quarter 1998	% Favorable
Gross Profit	23.2%	22.9%	1.3%
Selling, General & Admin. Expense	10.2%	11.0%	7.3%
Income Before Interest & Taxes	13.0%	11.9%	9.2%

THIRD QUARTER 1999 COMPARED WITH THIRD QUARTER 1998, CONTINUED

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS, CONTINUED

The third quarter of 1999 was impacted by rapidly increasing raw material costs, principally resin and recovered paper. Although selling prices were increased during the third quarter to recover the higher raw material costs, the Company was not able to fully recover the higher cost during the third quarter. In spite of this, margins did improve, as reflected in the preceding chart, primarily due to significantly higher productivity and increased volume during the quarter.

Reported net income for the quarter was $45.3 million versus $39.7 million in the third quarter of 1998. Earnings were $.44 per diluted share in the third quarter of 1999 versus $.39 in last year's third quarter.

CONSUMER PACKAGING SEGMENT

The Consumer Packaging segment includes the following businesses: composite cans; flexible packaging (printed flexibles, bag and film products, and container seals); and specialty packaging and services (folding cartons, covers and coasters, graphics management, and packaging centers).

Third quarter sales were $279.6 million, compared with $272.6 million in the same quarter of 1998. Last year's sales included the labels and label machinery businesses in North America and the United Kingdom. On a comparable basis, third quarter 1999 sales were $279.6 million, versus $259.5 million in the same quarter last year. Reported operating profits in this segment were $34.5 million, compared with $27.1 million in the third quarter of 1998. On a comparable basis, operating profits were $34.7 million in the third quarter of 1999, versus $27.8 million in the same quarter last year.

The increase in third quarter sales in this segment resulted primarily from increased volume in composite cans, particularly in Europe and Latin America. In the domestic composite can business, sales of cans for nuts, powdered beverages and refrigerated dough were strong, while sales volume declined in the snack and frozen concentrate lines. The increase in refrigerated dough can sales reflects the August 1999 purchase of the composite can operations of Crown, Cork & Seal, Inc. European composite can sales increased, reflecting the introduction of several new snack food products and continued growth of existing snack can products. Composite can sales in Latin America have increased largely due to a new plant in Mexico that opened in the second quarter of 1999 to serve the powdered infant formula market. The increase in operating profit primarily reflects improved productivity in the North America composite can operations and steadily improving profitability in the European and Latin American operations.

THIRD QUARTER 1999 COMPARED WITH THIRD QUARTER 1998, CONTINUED

CONSUMER PACKAGING SEGMENT, CONTINUED

Sales in the Company's bag and film products business were higher in the third quarter of 1999 versus the third quarter of 1998 due to greater volume in nearly all of its markets. Although selling prices were increased in the third quarter of 1999 to recover steadily increasing resin costs, full recovery of these costs was not realized during the quarter. Thus, operating profits in this business were slightly below last year's third quarter. Sales increased in the printed flexibles operation due to strong volume. Operating profits were slightly below last year's third quarter due to increased production of liners sold internally to the Company's composite can operation during the quarter. Results for Graphic Packaging, acquired late in the third quarter of 1999, were not included in third quarter operating results, but will be included in the fourth quarter.

INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING SEGMENT

The Industrial Packaging segment includes the following businesses: engineered carriers/paper (paper and plastic tubes and cores, paper manufacturing and recovered paper operations) and protective packaging (designed interior packaging and protective reels).

Third quarter 1999 sales for the industrial packaging segment were $340.5 million, compared with $334.4 million in the third quarter of 1998. The Company's paper cone operations, which were included in last year's third quarter sales, were contributed to a joint venture in 1998 and are no longer consolidated by Sonoco. Last year's third quarter sales also included the intermediate bulk containers portion of the industrial containers division which was sold in December 1998. On a comparable basis, sales from ongoing operations were $340.5 million in the third quarter of 1999 versus $324.8 million in last year's third quarter. On a comparable basis, operating profits were $46.0 million in the third quarter of 1999 versus $45.3 million in last year's third quarter. Sales on a comparable basis increased 4.8% compared with the third quarter of 1998 due to stronger volume and sales price increases for engineered carriers. Volume in the engineered carrier and paperboard operations, although stronger than 1998's third quarter, was impacted during the quarter by natural disasters affecting customers along the East Coast of the United States, and in Turkey and Taiwan.

THIRD QUARTER 1999 COMPARED WITH THIRD QUARTER 1998, CONTINUED

INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING SEGMENT, CONTINUED

The profit impact from the productivity improvements and volume gains was partially offset by an unfavorable price/cost relationship reflecting higher raw material costs, particularly recovered paper. In response, the company announced a 7-1/2% - 9% increase in U.S. prices for its paper-based engineered carriers in July 1999, as well as price increases for Asia, Europe, Latin America, Canada and Mexico. Full implementation of price increases for engineered carriers historically lags increased recovered paper prices. Therefore, the net impact of the announced selling price increases did not offset the higher raw material costs in the current quarter. It is anticipated that the selling prices will fully recover cost increases for the fourth quarter of 1999.

Sales in the molded plastics operations remained flat in the third quarter of 1999 compared with the same period last year, reflecting weakness in the textile and wire markets. Operating profits were enhanced, however, due to higher productivity and lower selling and administrative expenses.

The Company's wire and cable packaging operations experienced increased sales volume during the third quarter due in part to the acquisition of Wood Composite Technology, a manufacturer of composite (i.e. wood and plastic) reels, in the first quarter of 1999. The additional volume, as well as productivity improvements, contributed to improved operating profits in the third quarter of 1999 versus last year's third quarter.

Sales in the Company's designed interior packaging operations were up nearly 17% in the third quarter of 1999 compared with the third quarter of 1998 due to strong volume. This increase was due in part to the start up of a new facility in Mexico during the second quarter of this year. The higher volume and improved productivity contributed to improved operating profits for the quarter.

SEPTEMBER 1999 YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1998 YEAR-TO-DATE

Consolidated net sales for the first nine months of 1999 were $1.79 billion, compared with $1.92 billion in the same period last year. Sales in 1998 included approximately $177.3 million from the following divested operations: the labels and label machinery businesses in North America and the United Kingdom; the industrial containers business; and the roll wrap and paper cone operations which were contributed to separate joint ventures during 1998. In addition, 1998 results included sales of corrugating medium which, beginning in July 1998, is sold under a cost-plus fixed management fee arrangement under which Sonoco no longer reports sales. Comparable net sales, excluding these items, were $1.78 billion in 1999, slightly ahead of $1.74 billion in 1998.

SEPTEMBER 1999 YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1998 YEAR-TO-DATE, CONTINUED

Reported net income for the first nine months of 1999 was $136.6 million compared to the $148.4 million reported for the same period in 1998. Net income in 1999 includes a gain of $3.5 million from the sale of the Company's labels business in the United Kingdom and its label machinery businesses in the United Kingdom and the United States. Reported net income in 1998 included a net after-tax gain of $26.6 million on the sales of the fibre and plastic drum portions of the industrial containers business and the North American labels operations. Also included in 1998's reported net income was an extraordinary loss on the early extinguishment of debt of $11.8 million, net of the related income tax benefit. Excluding these transactions, comparable net income for the first nine months of 1999 was $133.1 million, consistent with the $133.6 million reported during the first nine months of 1998.

CONSUMER PACKAGING SEGMENT

Trade sales for the consumer packaging segment in the first nine months of 1999 were $805.5 million, compared with $840.0 million in the same period last year. On a comparable basis, excluding sales from divested operations, trade sales for the first three quarters of 1999 were $796.9 compared with $770.2 during the first three quarters of 1998. Operating profits in this segment were $102.8 million for the first nine months of 1999, compared with $91.2 million during the same period last year. On a comparable basis, operating profits increased 13.1% to $102.9 million from $91.0 million in 1998.

The company's global composite can operations remain strong. Volume increases in the powdered beverage, nuts, and club size packages more than offset volume declines in frozen concentrate containers. The acquisition of Crown Cork & Seal's composite can operations in August 1999 increased sales by approximately $3.0 million. Volume and operating profits in both the European and Latin American composite can operations increased significantly over 1998's nine month results.

Volume increased in Sonoco's bag and film products operations led by increases in both the grocery and retail markets. Operating profits also increased over 1998 due primarily to the higher volume and improved year-over-year productivity. Lower year-over-year raw material costs were largely offset by lower selling prices. Volume increased in the Company's printed flexibles operations in both the confectionery and liners markets. Productivity improvements also contributed to this group's improved performance over the first three quarters of 1998.

SEPTEMBER 1999 YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1998 YEAR-TO-DATE, CONTINUED

INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING SEGMENT

Trade sales for the industrial packaging segment for the first nine months of 1999 were $986.7 million, compared with $1,077.9 million in the same period last year. The Company's paper cone and roll wrap businesses, both of which were included in 1998's sales, were contributed to joint ventures in 1998 and are no longer consolidated by Sonoco. The prior year also included sales of corrugating medium which, beginning in July 1998, is sold under a cost-plus fixed management fee arrangement under which Sonoco no longer reports sales. On a comparable basis, excluding these items and sales from divested operations, sales in 1998 would have been $970.4 million. Operating profits for this segment in the first three quarters of 1999 were $137.5 million, compared with the $155.3 million reported in the same period of 1998. On a comparable basis, excluding divested operations and entities previously consolidated which have been contributed to joint ventures, 1998 profits were $148.7 million.

Lower year-over-year selling prices, reflecting the lower raw material costs during the first half of 1999, were more than offset by volume increases in many of the industrial businesses. Recovered paper costs slowly began to increase late in the first quarter of 1999 and continued to increase throughout the second and third quarters. Selling price increases were implemented during the third quarter in response to these increases. Operating profits in the industrial segment were impacted by an unfavorable price/cost relationship compared with the first nine months of 1998. Volume gains in many of the businesses in the industrial segment, along with increased productivity in all businesses, helped to mitigate the unfavorable price/cost relationship.

CORPORATE

General corporate expenses have been allocated as operating costs to each of the segments. Year to date interest expense was lower in the first nine months of 1999 compared with the same period last year due to lower average rates partially attributable to the repurchase in March 1998 of the Company's 9.2% debentures.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has examined the Company's federal income tax returns for all years through 1992. Currently, the 1993 through 1995 federal income tax returns are being examined. The IRS has proposed various adjustments to the Company's tax returns for the years currently under examination. After review of the proposed adjustments, management of the Company believes that its provision for income tax is adequate under the circumstances based on the specific facts of the Company's operations.

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS
(UNAUDITED), CONTINUED

SEPTEMBER 1999 YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER 1998 YEAR-TO-DATE, CONTINUED

FINANCIAL POSITION, LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

The Company's financial position remained strong through the first three quarters of 1999. The debt-to-capital ratio, after adjusting debt levels for excess cash related to the issuance of restricted purpose bonds, increased to 49.7% at September 26, 1999, from 46.7% at December 31, 1998. The increase is primarily attributable to the increase in debt from the acquisitions of the composite can operations of Crown Cork and Seal and flexible packaging division of Graphic Packaging Corporation. The Company has plans to replace a portion of its variable-rate debt with fixed rate, longer term bonds during the fourth quarter of 1999 or the first quarter of 2000.

Working capital increased $41.7 million to $267.0 million during the first three quarters of 1999, driven mainly by higher accounts receivable and inventory. The increases in accounts receivable and inventory are due to acquisitions completed in 1999 and ongoing business activity.

The Company expects internally generated cash flows, along with borrowings available under its commercial paper and other existing credit facilities, to be sufficient to meet operating and normal capital expenditure requirements. Depreciation, depletion, and amortization for the first nine months of 1999 was $105.7 million compared with $102.3 million in the same period last year.

YEAR 2000 READINESS DISCLOSURE AND EURO COMPLIANCE

The "Year 2000 issue" relates to the inability of certain computerized information and production systems to properly recognize and process date sensitive information. This is because most of the world's computer hardware and software have historically used only two digits to identify the year, resulting in the computers' inability to distinguish between dates in the 1900's and dates in the 2000's.

In May 1997, the Company adopted a Year 2000 Plan ("Plan") to identify and address the Company's various Year 2000 issues throughout its domestic and international operations, including financial and administrative systems, process control and operating systems and information systems infrastructure. The Plan provides for six phases: (i) an inventory of all systems that might be affected by the Year 2000; (ii) assessment of Year 2000 readiness of each application identified in the inventory; (iii) planning for corrective action, which includes reviewing and prioritizing the various corrective actions based on their relative impact on the Company's operations and profitability; (iv) initiation of corrective actions to replace or repair systems that are not Year 2000 compliant; (v) testing the new, upgraded or repaired systems; and (vi) implementation of tested systems and post-implementation support, including contingency plans for those systems most critical to the Company's ongoing operations and/or most at risk to fail. The Plan is being implemented on a Company-wide basis under the direction of the Information Services Department in cooperation with senior management and with the review of the Board of Directors' Audit Committee.

The Company has completed the inventory, assessment, planning and correction phases for all of its material systems that may involve a Year 2000 issue. In approximately 98% of its operations, final testing and implementation have also been completed. Testing of material systems in the remaining operations is scheduled to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter of 1999. Based on the information developed from the work performed to date, of the total system-related expenditures, the Company estimates that the total cost of achieving Year 2000 compliance in substantially all of its information technology and production systems has been approximately $30 million, a portion of which was capitalized and will be amortized to earnings in future periods.

The funds were spent primarily on the correction and implementation phases. Management anticipates that additional amounts spent in the fourth quarter of 1999 will be minimal, and believes that the total cost of achieving Year 2000 compliance will not have a material impact on the Company's financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows.

The Company's facilities utilize various control systems to monitor and regulate production operations. Although the production impact of a Year 2000 related failure varies significantly among the facilities, any such failure could cause manufacturing delays or similar inefficiencies. Due to the decentralized nature of its operations, however, management believes the potential impact of such a failure would be isolated to the affected facility. In most cases, production could be shifted to other Company facilities that have similar production capabilities and capacity until the Year 2000 issue is remedied. It is not possible to predict the reasonable likelihood of such an event occurring or the related financial impact. Based on information developed to date, the Company does not believe it has a significant amount of software imbedded in its production equipment that is date dependent.

The Company has developed contingency plans for its administration functions, production facilities, and equipment. The Company's contingency plans assume a worst-case scenario that includes short-term power outages, short-term transportation and supply shortages, and short-term voice and data communication failures. Mitigation plans vary somewhat between business units, but share a common focus on safety, asset

and revenue protection, and supply chain management. Specific contingency options are reviewed and revised frequently, and include manual procedures, alternate site production capability, and increased raw material inventories.

The Company also maintains a wide variety of administrative and financial applications that require corrective actions to handle Year 2000 dates. In North America, the Company has installed and tested new, more centralized software systems that are designed to address Year 2000 issues. In the Company's international operations, such applications generally are decentralized.

Consequently, any Year 2000 failure would be isolated to a single facility or operation. In most instances, the Company has the ability to run these applications off-line with the assistance of additional Company personnel, if necessary.

The Company relies on third party suppliers for certain raw materials, utilities, transportation and other key services. Under the Plan, the Company has initiated efforts to evaluate the Year 2000 readiness of its key suppliers so that it can make contingency plans to reduce risks of disruption in its production and delivery processes. Paper, the Company's primary raw material, is produced internally; therefore, the Company believes it will not be subject to many of the risks attendant to companies that are substantially dependent on third party suppliers for raw materials. The Company has evaluated all critical suppliers, and has taken appropriate action to minimize the potential impact of any supplier failure.

Although possible Year 2000 interruptions in customers' operations could result in reduced sales, increased inventory or receivable levels and reduction in cash flow, the Company believes that its customer base is broad enough to minimize the effects of such occurrences. Nevertheless, the Company is actively communicating with each of its more significant customers in order to devise adequate contingency plans where necessary.

On January 1, 1999, 11 of the 15 member countries of the European Union established fixed conversion rates between their existing currencies and the Euro and adopted the Euro as their common legal currency (the "Euro Conversion"). The impact of the Euro Conversion has not been material to the Company in the first nine months of 1999. The Company is currently unsure of the future impact that the Euro Conversion will have, particularly as it relates to its European operations. However, the Company does not anticipate that the

YEAR 2000 READINESS DISCLOSURE AND EURO COMPLIANCE, CONTINUED

Euro Conversion will have a material adverse effect on its future business, financial condition, results of operations, or cash flows. The corrective actions that the Company is taking to address Year 2000 issues with respect to its European operations already include changes in its administrative and financial applications necessary to deal with the Euro Conversion at an immaterial incremental cost.

The estimates and conclusions herein contain forward-looking statements and are based on management's best estimates of future events. Risks to completing the Plan include the availability of resources, the Company's ability to discover and correct the potential Year 2000-sensitive problems that could have a serious impact on specific systems or facilities, and the ability of suppliers to bring their systems into Year 2000 compliance. All statements made herein regarding our Year 2000 efforts are "Year 2000 Readiness Disclosures" made pursuant to the Year 2000 Information and Readiness Disclosures Act, and to the extent applicable, are entitled to the protections of such act.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Information about the Company's exposure to market risk was disclosed in its 1998 Annual Report on Form 10-K which was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 26, 1999. There have been no material changes in market risk exposures since the date of that filing.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 6. Exhibits and Reports on Form 8-K

(a) Exhibit 27 - Financial Data Schedule (for SEC use only)

(b) No Current Reports on Form 8-K were filed by the Company during the third quarter of 1999.

S O N O C O   P R O D U C T S   C O M P A N Y

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY

(Registrant)

Date: November 10, 1999

By: /s/ F. T. Hill, Jr.

F. T. Hill, Jr.
Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description

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27	Financial Data Schedule for the third quarter of 1999 (for SEC use only)

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THIS SCHEDULE CONTAINS SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION EXTRACTED FROM THE
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