

INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA SA DE CV  
Form 20-F  
June 30, 2004

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 20-F

G

REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

:

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003.

OR

G

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_ to

\_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number: 82-2873

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V.**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

**Ceramics International, Inc.**

**United Mexican States**

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

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**Ave. Carlos Pacheco 7200**

**Chihuahua, Chih., Mexico**

(Address of principal executive offices)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

<u>Title of each Class</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
American Depositary Shares, each representing  five Limited Voting Units	New York Stock Exchange
Limited Voting Units, which consists of  one Series D and one Series L Share	New York Stock Exchange*
Series D Shares, without par value	New York Stock Exchange*
Series L Shares, without par value	New York Stock Exchange*

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\*Not for trading, but only in connection with the registration of American Depositary Shares pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: **None**

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Act: **None**

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report:

value	57,906,632	Series B Shares, without par	
		Series D Shares, without par value	19,646,720

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

Yes  No

Indicate by check mark which financial statement item the Registrant has elected to follow:

Item 17  Item 18

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Unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires, references to “Interceramic” in this Annual Report on Form F-20 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003 (this “Annual Report”) shall mean *Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V.*, a limited liability company with variable capital (*sociedad anónima de capital variable*) organized under the laws of the United Mexican States (“Mexico”), and references to the “Company” shall mean Interceramic collectively with its subsidiaries.

The Company maintains its financial books and records in Mexican pesos (“Pesos,” “P.” or “Ps”) and presents its financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in Mexico (“Mexican GAAP”). Pursuant to Mexican GAAP, financial data for all periods covered by the consolidated financial statements of the Company and other financial information presented in this Annual Report, unless otherwise indicated, have been restated in constant Pesos with purchasing power as of December 31, 2003.

This Annual Report contains translations of certain Peso amounts into dollars (“Dollars,” “US \$” or “\$”), the currency of the United States of America (the “United States”), at specified exchange rates solely for the convenience of the reader. These translations should not be construed as representations that the Peso amounts actually represent Dollar amounts or could be converted into Dollars at the rate or rates indicated. Unless otherwise indicated, Dollar amounts have been translated from Pesos at the exchange rate of Ps 11.235 to US \$1.00, the exchange rate as quoted to the Company by *Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.* as the rate representing the interbank exchange rate (the “Interbank Rate”) at the close of business on December 31, 2003. There are several other commonly available rates of conversion of Pesos to Dollars and no representation can be made as to the accuracy of one rate as compared to any other, many of which may vary significantly from time to time from the Interbank Rate.

The manufacturing operations and the principal offices of the Company are based primarily in Mexico and the Company’s consolidated financial statements are expressed in Pesos; however, all of the Company’s indebtedness and a significant portion of the other liabilities of the Company are designated in Dollars, and the Company generates a material amount of Dollar denominated revenues and/or expenses payable in Dollars. Such Dollar amounts are translated into Pesos for financial statement purposes in accordance with Mexican GAAP.

The Company generally measures its ceramic floor tile production and sales in terms of square meters. For purposes of converting the Company’s production and sales information from square meters into square feet, the Company has used a convention of 11 square feet to each square meter rather than the actual numerical conversion of 10.762 square feet to each square meter. In Mexico, the Company’s measurement of product generally is based upon the actual surface area of the tile produced or sold. In the United States, the Company observes the convention of

measuring product based upon the surface area covered by the applied ceramic tile, which includes standard one-quarter inch grout joints.

This Annual Report contains forward-looking statements, within the meaning of Section 27A of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “1933 Act”), and Section 21E of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “1934 Act”), which reflect the Company’s views about future events and financial performance. Statements that are not historical facts, including without limitation statements about the Company’s hopes, beliefs, strategies and expectations, are forward-looking statements and involve inherent risks and uncertainties. The Company’s forward-looking statements are based on current plans, estimates and projections and, accordingly, undue reliance should not be placed upon them. Actual results could differ materially from those projected in forward looking statements for a variety of reasons that may be beyond the control of the Company, including without limitation effects on the Company from competition, economic, political and social events that might occur in Mexico, changes in circumstances that might adversely impact the Company’s ability to access sources of financing on competitive terms, events that might impact the construction industry in Mexico generally, changes in Mexican GAAP, changes in law and other factors. In any event, the forward-looking statements contained in this Annual Report speak only as of their dates and the Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise any of them, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. In preparing its financial statements, the Company makes estimates concerning a variety of matters. Some of these matters are highly uncertain, and the estimates involve judgments based on the information available to the Company. Certain discussions in this Annual Report concern matters for which the financial presentation would be materially affected if either (i) the Company relied on different estimates that it could reasonably use or (ii) in the future the Company changes its estimates in response to changes that are reasonably likely to occur.

Interceramic’s registered office in Mexico, and principal executive office, is located at Ave. Carlos Pacheco 7200, Chihuahua, Mexico, and its telephone number is 011.52.614.429.1111. The address for the corporate offices of the Company’s United States subsidiaries is 2333 South Jupiter Road, Garland, Texas 75041, telephone number 214.503.5500.

## **PART I**

### **ITEM 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers**

Not applicable.

### **ITEM 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable**

Not applicable.

### **ITEM 3. Key Information**

#### ***A. Selected Financial Data***

The table on the following page presents selected consolidated financial data of the Company. The data presented should be read in conjunction with, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, the Financial Statements included under Item 18 in this Annual Report (the “Financial Statements”). The Financial Statements have been audited by Mancera, S.C., a member practice of Ernst & Young Global, independent auditors.

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Mexican GAAP, which differ in certain significant respects from generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (“US GAAP”). See Note 13 to the Financial Statements for a description of the principal differences between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP as they relate to the Company and reconciliation to US GAAP of net earnings and shareholders’ equity.

Pursuant to Mexican GAAP, the Financial Statements and the selected consolidated financial data set forth below have been prepared giving effect to Bulletin B-10, Bulletin B-12 and Bulletin B-15 of the *Instituto Mexicano de Contadores Públicos*, the Mexican Institute of Public Accountants (the “IMCP”). Bulletin B-10, as amended, provides for the recognition of the effects of inflation on financial information. For years ending prior to January 1, 1997, Bulletin B-10 allowed the Company to restate non-monetary assets at current replacement cost, as determined by independent appraisers, to restate the components of shareholders’ equity using the Consumer Price Index for Mexico (the “NCPI”), and to record gains or losses in purchasing power from holding monetary liabilities or assets. Bulletin B-10 also requires restatement of all financial statements to constant Pesos as of the date of the most recent balance sheet presented and, accordingly, all data in the Financial Statements and in the selected consolidated financial data set forth below have been restated in Pesos with purchasing power of December 31, 2003, unless otherwise indicated. *See* Note 1 to the Financial Statements. The effect of these inflation accounting principles has not been reversed in the reconciliation to US GAAP. *See* Note 13 to the Financial Statements.

The IMCP published the Fifth Amendment to Bulletin B-10, applicable to financial statements for periods beginning on or after January 1, 1997, which abandons the use of appraisals for the valuation of fixed assets and instead imposes a specific cost method. Under this method, certain fixed assets acquired in Mexico, such as machinery and equipment, are to be valued based on their historical cost. If an asset was acquired from outside of Mexico, the historical cost is restated using the consumer price index of the country of origin, converted into Pesos at the exchange rate prevailing at the time of valuation. For items acquired in Mexico, or for which the country or origin is uncertain, the historical cost is restated using the NCPI. The Company implemented this change commencing with the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997. *See* Note 1(h) to the Financial Statements.

Bulletin B-12 specifies the appropriate presentation of the statement of changes in financial position when financial statements have been restated in constant Pesos in accordance with Bulletin B-10 and prior years’ presentations have been restated accordingly. Bulletin B-12 further requires (i) identification of the generation and application of resources representing differences between beginning and ending financial statement balances in constant Pesos and (ii) that monetary and foreign exchange gains and losses not be treated as nonmonetary items in the determination of resources provided by operations. Under Bulletin B-15, which became effective on January 1, 1998, prior period financial statements must be restated using an actualization factor determined by weighing the Company’s respective operations in the United States and Mexico, each as effected by inflation in the applicable country and currency exchange rates in the applicable currencies. In this respect, Bulletin B-15 is inconsistent with the requirements of Rule 3-20(e) of Regulation S-X promulgated by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) with respect to filings under the 1933 Act and the 1934 Act, and is treated as a difference between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP in the Financial Statements. *See* Note 1(a) and Note 13 to the Financial Statements.

Effective January 1, 2000, the Company adopted the requirements of the Accounting Principles Bulletin D-4, “Accounting for Income Tax, Asset Tax and Employee Profit Sharing,” issued by the IMCP. Bulletin D-4 requires the recognition of deferred taxes on all temporary differences in balance sheet accounts for financial and tax reporting purposes, using the enacted income tax rate at the date the temporary differences are expected to reverse. Through December 31, 1999, deferred taxes were recognized only on temporary differences that were considered to be non-recurring and that had a known turnaround period.

The accumulated effect of these new requirements at the beginning of 2000 was applied to stockholders’ equity, without restatement of prior years’ financial statements. The cumulative effect of adopting this new bulletin increased deferred tax liabilities and decreased stockholders’ equity by Ps 319,986.

**AS OF AND FOR**

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003
	(IN THOUSANDS OF PESOS AS OF					Thnds.
	December 31, 2003(1)					of
						Dollars(9)
<b>INCOME STATEMENT DATA:</b>						
<b>MEXICAN GAAP:</b>						
Net sales	2,954,519	3,036,053	3,174,154	3,267,385	3,424,926	304,844
Cost of sales	(1,911,750)	(1,926,221)	(1,993,310)	(2,058,976)	(2,236,376)	(199,054)
Gross profit	1,042,769	1,112,832	1,180,844	1,208,409	1,188,550	105,790
Selling and administrative expenses	(779,952)	(797,177)	(819,259)	(898,570)	(959,388)	(85,392)
Operating income	262,817	315,656	361,585	309,839	229,162	20,398
Comprehensive financing (cost) income	26,722	(67,879)	(26,666)	(168,266)	(111,923)	(9,962)
Other income (expense), net	(26,887)	(30,565)	(5,358)	(12,830)	(8,690)	(773)
Equity in results of associated companies (2)	839	0	1,426	(450)	488	43
Write-off of assets	0	0	(48,152)	0	0	0
Income and asset tax	(17,282)	(16,750)	(18,244)	(20,852)	(21,105)	(1,879)
Deferred income tax	0-	(39,453)	(31,770)	9,024	(25,726)	(2,290)
Employee profit sharing (3)	(3,475)	(2,652)	(3,701)	(3,798)	0	0
Consolidated net income	242,284	158,357	229,120	112,667	62,206	5,537
Minority net income (loss)	5,996	(816)	24,940	19,660	29,989	2,669

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Majority net income	236,287	159,173	204,180	93,007	32,217	2,868
Net income per Unit (4)	4.36	2.91	3.52	1.63	0.65	0.06
Weighted average Units outstanding (000's)(4)	54,175	54,625	57,928	57,184	49,555	49,555

**US GAAP  
AMOUNTS(5):**

Majority net income	236,434	123,490	206,996	63,848	209,588	18,655
Net income per Unit (4)	4.46	2.32	3.65	1.14	4.31	0.38
Diluted net income per Unit (4)	4.42	2.31	3.65	1.14	4.31	0.38

**AS OF AND FOR**

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,**

**1999                      2000                      2001                      2002                      2003                      2003**

**(IN THOUSANDS OF PESOS AS OF**

**December 31, 2003(1)**

**Thnds.**

**of**

**Dollars(9)**

**BALANCE SHEET  
DATA:**

**MEXICAN GAAP**

Current assets	1,298,426	1,329,777	1,324,119	1,349,488	1,385,920	123,357
Property, plant and equipment, net	2,021,267	1,915,973	1,747,954	1,847,975	1,966,173	175,004
Total assets	3,373,025	3,293,540	3,128,495	3,271,443	3,448,668	306,957
Current liabilities	633,647	598,776	1,427,315	744,636	786,601	70,013
Short term debt (6)	200,603	143,851	1,090,618	278,936	385,969	34,354



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Long term debt	1,561,344	1,327,169	263,358	1,012,667	972,419	86,552
Total stockholders' equity	1,174,139	989,036	1,095,721	1,163,268	1,241,398	110,494

**US GAAP  
AMOUNTS(5):**

Total stockholders' equity	63,171	260,768	361,168	439,491	562,059	50,028
Weighted average units outstanding(10)	5,100	6,367	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000

**CHANGE IN  
FINANCIAL  
POSITION:**

**MEXICAN GAAP:**

Resources provided by operating activities	377,195	333,980	345,263	169,291	103,819	9,241
Resources (used in) received from financing activities	(263,465)	(156,158)	(140,812)	(131,519)	(12,269)	(1,092)
Resources used in investing activities	(141,951)	(100,337)	(116,226)	(181,793)	(133,936)	(11,921)

**CASH FLOW  
DATA:**

**US GAAP:**

Cash flow provided by operating activities	151,481	153,415	198,239	61,647	54,214	4,825
Cash flow used in investing activities	(142,858)	(96,441)	(108,884)	(176,959)	(133,936)	(11,921)
Cash flow (used in) provided by						

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financing activities	(78,933)	53,875	(56,355)	(166,872)	(35,706)	(3,178)
Effect on inflation accounting	36,536	(37,449)	46,020	150,677	75,527	6,722

OTHER DATA:

MEXICAN GAAP:

Depreciation and amortization	166,051	153,515	152,430	160,054	175,645	15,634
Capital expenditures	(141,950)	(100,341)	(116,226)	(181,793)	(133,936)	(11,921)
Working capital	664,780	731,001	(103,196)	604,852	599,319	53,344
EBITDA (11)	428,867	469,170	514,016	469,893	404,807	36,032

OPERATING INFORMATION:

Gross profit margin (7)	35.29%	36.62%	37.20%	36.98%	34.70%	34.70%
Operating profit margin (7)	8.90%	10.39%	11.39%	9.48%	6.69%	6.69%
EBITDA (7)	14.52%	15.44%	16.19%	14.38%	11.82%	11.82%
Personnel at period end	3,811	3,381	3,127	3,089	3,045	3,045

AVERAGE EXCHANGE RATES (8)	9.55	9.47	9.33	9.75	10.85	
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YEAR END	9.50	9.61	9.19	10.39	11.235	
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EXCHANGE RATE

Notes:

(1) In thousands, except for net income per Unit and operating information.

- (2) The equity in results of associated companies reflects the participation of the Company in the earnings of certain non-consolidated affiliates. *See* Note 1(g) to the Financial Statements.
- (3) *See* Note 9 to the Financial Statements.
- (4) Calculated by dividing majority net income by the weighted average Units outstanding for the respective period.
- (5) *See* Note 13 to the Financial Statements.
- (6) Includes bank loans and the current portion of long term debt. *See* Note 5 to the Financial Statements.
- (7) Expressed as a percentage of net sales.
- (8) Average Interbank Rate at the end of month during each period. At June 4, 2004, the Interbank Rate was Ps 11.42 to US \$1.00. For the six months from December 2003 through May 2004, the high and low exchange rates were as follows:

Month	High	Low
December 2003	11.390	11.167
January 2004	11.235	10.817
February 2004	11.170	10.940
March 2004	11.225	10.930
April 2004	11.470	11.167
May 2004	11.710	11.415

- (9) Solely for the convenience of the reader, figures as of December 31, 2003 have been translated into Dollars as the rate of Ps 11.235 to US \$1.00, the Interbank Rate at December 31, 2003.
- (10) The weighted average Units outstanding is calculated under US GAAP under which only the fixed portion of stockholders' equity is taken into account.
- (11) EBITDA represents earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. EBITDA is not a measure of performance under either US GAAP or Mexican GAAP and should not be considered a substitute for cash flow from operations, net earnings or other measures of performance as defined by US GAAP, or as a measure of profitability or liquidity. EBITDA does not give effect to the cash that must be used to service debt or to pay income taxes and thus does not reflect the funds actually available for capital expenditures or other discretionary uses. The presentation of EBITDA used by the Company may not be comparable to other similarly titled captions of other companies due to differences in the methods of calculation. It is included herein to provide additional information with respect to the Company's ability to meet its consolidated debt service obligations and its capital expenditure and working capital requirements. It is also included because it is used as a measure in a financial covenant contained in the Company's primary loan agreement. The calculation of EBITDA is as follows:

	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,					2003
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
	IN THOUSANDS OF PESOS AS OF					
	December 31, 2003(1)					
						<b>Thnds. of Dollars(9)</b>
Majority net income	236,287	159,173	204,180	93,007	32,217	2,868
Reconciliation to EBITDA						
Comprehensive financing (cost) income	(26,722)	67,879	26,666	168,266	111,923	9,962
Other income, net	26,887	30,565	5,358	12,830	8,690	773
Equity in results of associated companies (2)	(389)	0	(1,426)	450	(488)	(43)
Income and asset tax	17,282	16,750	18,244	20,852	21,105	1,879
Deferred income tax	0	39,453	31,770	(9,024)	25,726	2,290
Employee profit sharing (3)	3,475	2,652	3,701	3,798	0	0
Minority net income (loss)	5,996	(816)	24,940	19,660	29,989	2,669
Depreciation and amortization	166,051	153,515	152,430	160,054	175,645	15,634
EBITDA	428,867	469,170	514,016	469,893	404,807	36,032

***B. Capitalization and Indebtedness***

Not applicable.

***C. Reasons for Offer and Use of Proceeds***

Not applicable.

***D. Risk Factors***

There are certain risk factors that are specific to Interceramic, its industry and its business. These may include the following:

**Risks Relating to Developments in Mexico and Other Emerging Market Countries**

***Mexican political, social, and economic conditions and might adversely impact our sales and profitability***

Over 75 percent of our assets are located in Mexico, and on average about 50 percent of our sales each year are achieved in Mexico. As a result, demand for our products and our selling prices may decline as a result of adverse general economic and social conditions in Mexico, Mexican political developments, devaluation of the Peso and inflation and high interest rates in Mexico.

***Mexico has experienced adverse economic conditions that make our profitability vulnerable to factors beyond our control***

Since 2001, Mexico has experienced a prolonged period of slow-growth, with the gross domestic product or “GDP” growing at the rate of 0.3 percent, 0.9 percent and 1.16 percent in 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively. If the Mexican economy falls into a recession, our business, financial condition and results of operations may suffer materially for a number of reasons, including lack of consumer demand for our products, declining selling prices and increased cost of the materials, supplies and services we need in Mexico to make our products.

***Policies of the Mexican government could adversely effect the value of your investment in our company***

The Mexican government has exercised and continues to exercise a significant influence over many aspects of the Mexican economy. With the improving economic stability in recent times, the government has materially loosened its control over the economy, however in deteriorating economic circumstances the government could be expected to reinsert itself into the economy which could result in governmental controls on prices, currency exchange rates and inflation. Accordingly, Mexican government actions concerning the economy could have a significant effect on us and other private sector entities and on market conditions and the prices and returns on Mexican equity securities, including our equity securities.

***Political considerations in Mexico can adversely impact our operations and the value of your investment in our company***

Political events in Mexico may significantly affect our business conditions, financial condition and results of operations as well as the price of our securities. In recent years, political and social unrest and disturbances have adversely impacted the Mexican securities markets. In 2000, the citizens of Mexico elected Vicente Fox President of Mexico, the first opposition candidate to win the Presidency since 1929. Mr. Fox, a member of the National Action Party, ran for office on a program advocating reform of the political process in Mexico. However, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which had held the presidency since 1929, maintains a majority, together with the Partido de la Revolución Democrática in both houses of the Mexican Congress and conflict between the President and the Congress has made it very difficult for Mr. Fox to accomplish the reforms he had advocated during his campaign. Continued conflict between the two branches of government could lead to political paralysis in Mexico which could adversely effect operations and the price of our securities.

***Depreciation or fluctuation of the Peso relative to the Dollar could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations***

All of our debt and a material amount of our revenues and expenses are denominated in Dollars. Accordingly, we are affected by fluctuations in the value of the Peso against the Dollar. During periods when the Peso devalues against the Dollar, we recognize foreign exchange losses on our financial statements, while exchange gains are recognized during periods that the Peso strengthens against the Dollar. For example, while in 2001 the Company recognized foreign exchange gains of Ps 52.8 million as the Peso appreciated against the Dollar, in 2002 the opposite was true and the Company recognized foreign exchange losses of Ps 115.8 million. In 2003 the Company registered a

foreign exchange loss of Ps 91.5 million. Currency fluctuations are likely to continue to have an effect on our financial position, results of operations and cash flows in future periods.

Severe devaluation or depreciation of the Peso may also result in disruption of international foreign exchange markets and limit our ability to convert Pesos into Dollars for purposes of paying our debt as well as other obligations that we incur in Dollars. Although the Mexican government does not currently restrict the ability of persons to convert Pesos into Dollars or otherwise export currencies out of Mexico, it has done so in the past and it could institute restrictive policies which might adversely affect our ability to convert Pesos into Dollars in the future.

***High levels of inflation and high interest rates in Mexico could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations***

Even though we are currently experiencing the lowest interest and inflation rates in decades, Mexico has historically experienced high interest rates and high levels of inflation. Measured by changes in the National Consumer Price Index, inflation in Mexico for 2001 was 4.40 percent, 5.70 percent for 2002 and 3.97 percent for 2003. High rates of inflation can adversely affect the Company's results of operations or a variety of reasons, including the inability to always match the pace of inflation in the prices of goods and services needed to make products with the price the Company can obtain in the markets for the sale of its products. During periods of high inflation in Mexico, domestic interest rates have increased significantly. During 2002, the interest rate of the 28-day Mexican government securities called "Cetes" averaged 7.08 percent. During 2003, the interest rate of the 28-day Mexican government securities called "Cetes" averaged 6.23 percent. While these recent interest rates represent a considerable change from interest rates in excess of ten percent less than a decade ago, these low levels may not be maintained. High interest rates not only would increase our cost of borrowing money in Mexico, but also might make it more difficult to borrow or acquire goods and services on credit, thereby impairing our ability to manufacture our products as and when needed to service consumer demand.

***Adverse developments in other emerging market countries may lower the value of your investment in our company***

The market value of the securities of Mexican companies is periodically subject to economic, social and political developments in other emerging market countries. Although economic conditions in other countries may differ materially from those in Mexico, and although many of these other countries may have immaterial connections to the Mexican economy, investors' reactions to developments in other countries, particularly in emerging market economies, may result in a decrease in the market value of our securities.

**Risks relating to us and our business generally**

***The construction business is cyclical and a decrease in demand for tile products may lower our sales***

A recession or decline in the construction industry in Mexico or in the United States could result in decreased demand for our products and lower price levels. The tile industry is highly dependent on construction activity—including new construction and remodeling—which is cyclical in nature and is significantly affected by changes in general and local economic conditions. These changes include employment levels, financing availability, interest rates, consumer confidence and housing demand. Further, material unanticipated fluctuations in the demand for ceramic tile products could result in increases in inventories which may not be readily saleable by us at profitable prices.

***We use significant amounts of natural gas in our production process and increased natural gas prices will adversely affect our profitability***

Energy accounts for on average around 15 percent of our production cost, the largest component of which is for purchases of natural gas. Increases in the price of natural gas cannot easily be recovered from the prices of our

products, and thus a significant increase in the price of natural gas is likely to have a detrimental effect on our gross profit. With the current uncertainty in the Middle East and the protracted conflict in Iraq, natural gas prices have been increasing over recent months, currently is almost 25 percent more expensive than it was at this time in 2003. In the past, we have entered into fixed price contracts or other arrangements to limit our exposure to unfavorable fluctuations in energy prices, but we have none of these arrangements in place in 2004.

***We are highly leveraged and disruptions in cash flow may impair our ability to fund operations***

Although we have been decreasing our debt in recent years, we are still relatively highly leveraged, with consolidated indebtedness of US \$99.4 million and a total debt to equity ratio of 0.65 to 1 as of March 31, 2004. Substantially all of our physical assets have been pledged to secure repayment of our debts. Because a substantial portion of our cash provided by operations is needed to pay our debts, funds available for operations and for needed capital expenditures have been reduced in recent periods, and our ability to generate sufficient cash flow to adequately fund operations and capital expenditures in future periods may be impaired. Additionally, our highly leveraged position makes us more vulnerable to adverse economic conditions than less leveraged competitors. Furthermore, the discretion of our management with respect to certain business matters is limited by covenants contained in some of our loan agreements.

***We may not generate enough cash flow to pay substantial debt amortizations in coming periods***

In June of 2002, we entered into a Credit Agreement with an international consortium of lenders, pursuant to which we borrowed US \$100.0 million to refinance our then-maturing \$90.0 million notes and for other general working capital purposes. Although the Credit Agreement is on generally favorable terms, it provides for significant amortization of principal, with US \$13.1 million due in 2004, US \$20.0 million due in 2005, US \$22.5 million due in 2006 and the remaining US \$25.0 million due in 2007. We also have US \$6.1 million in short-term debt due in 2004. These significant debt service obligations may materially impact our cash flow and impede our ability to fund operations. In 2002 and 2003, our cash flow was substantially reduced over prior periods. In the event we are unable to generate sufficient cash flow to service debt obligations when due, we will be required to either renegotiate the terms of our debt obligations or replace them on conditions that are more favorable than currently. If we were unable to do so, it could impair our ability to fund operations and adversely impact our profitability.

***We face significant competition in all markets and pricing pressures may decrease our profitability***

Significant competition generally is reflected in lower prices for our products, and any further decreases in our selling prices could decrease our profitability and impair our cash flow. The markets for our products in both Mexico and the United States are highly competitive. In Mexico, we compete for market share primarily with domestic manufacturers and independent distributors of ceramic tile, many with greater resources than we possess. We dedicate significant resources to advertising, marketing and product presentation strategies in Mexico in order to generate and maintain consumer interest in our products. A failure of one or more of our strategies could result in decreased sales in Mexico. In the United States, we face significant competition, primarily from Italian and Spanish producers. Much of our competition in the United States is against products similar to ours and pricing pressures are significant. Although the recent weakness of the Dollar against the European common currency, or "Euro," has increased the cost of products of many European competitors, most of these competitors still retain a pricing advantage over us due to generally lower costs of production.

***Import tariffs in the United States provide some competitors with pricing advantages that put us at a competitive disadvantage***

United States tile manufacturers can charge less for their products than we do because they are not subject to import tariffs, making our products less competitive and adversely effecting our sales revenues. Mexico, the United States and Canada are parties to the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, created to establish a "free

trade” zone and to eliminate import duties, tariffs and barriers among the three countries. However, under NAFTA tariffs on ceramic tile imported from Mexico into the United States were not eliminated and are to be phased out over a period of 15 years (the current NAFTA tariff rate for substantially all of our products is 5.00 percent). United States producers are not subject to any tariffs in the United States markets and thus enjoy a competitive advantage against importers like us. The benefits of NAFTA to us may only be realized gradually with increased access to the United States market and increased sales in the United States as the tariffs are reduced. It is also possible that European or United States manufacturers may locate or expand production facilities in Mexico to take advantage of reduced tariff levels, resulting in increased competition not only in the United States market but in the Mexican market as well.

The United States is also a party to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, or GATT. Under GATT, the United States currently imposes a tariff on products like ours from non-NAFTA countries at a rate of 8.50 percent. The reduction of tariff rates under GATT may result in increased competition within the United States ceramic tile markets from European and other foreign producers of ceramic tile products.

### **Risks relating to our controlling shareholders and our capital structure**

#### ***Our controlling shareholders may cause us to take actions that may not be in the best interest of other shareholders***

Over half of our general voting securities are held or controlled by members or associates of the Oscar Almeida Chabre family of Chihuahua, Chihuahua, México. This controlling group may have objectives for our company that differ from those of minority shareholders on a variety of issues, including for example business strategies, product development and capital investment. Because of this, the value of your investment is subject in many respects to the decisions of management over which you are unable to exercise any control. By virtue of its ownership, this group has the effective power to designate a majority of the Board of Directors and to determine the outcome of other actions requiring a vote of the shareholders, except in very limited cases that require a vote of the holders of the Series D Shares and the Series L Shares. Further, under Mexican law, you may have less protection as a minority shareholder than you do under the laws of the United States. See the discussion under the heading “Item 10. Additional Information—B. Memorandum and Articles of Association” contained in this annual report.

#### ***A change in our control may result in management changes and defaults under loan agreements that could result in acceleration of significant debt obligations***

As a result of shareholdings and certain agreements, the Almeida Family currently controls a majority of our general voting securities. The Almeida Family has controlled the senior management of our company since its inception, and a loss of control could result in a loss of experienced executive and other management personnel which might harm our ability to competitively operate our business. Also, most of our loan agreements contain provisions that would allow our lenders to accelerate our debts if the Almeida Family ceases to own a certain percentage of the Company. If all or even a portion of our debts were accelerated, we may be unable to pay or refinance them. The Almeida Family is not obligated to maintain their holdings in our securities, however, and if they chose to dispose of all or a portion of their Series B Shares the control of Interceramic could change.

On December 7, 2004, the then outstanding Series L Shares will automatically convert to Series B Shares. As a result, the Almeida Family will, based upon their current ownership, cease to own or control over 50 percent of our general voting securities.

#### ***Your ability to recover damages from or enforce a judgment against us may be limited***

We are organized under the laws of Mexico and all of our officers and all but two of the members of our board of directors reside in Mexico. Also, more than 75 percent of our assets are located in Mexico. As a result, if you were to have a claim against us, whether predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the federal securities laws of the United States or otherwise, it may not be possible for you to effect service of process within the United States



upon our management or to enforce the payment by us or our management of damages that might be awarded to you by courts in the United States.

#### **ITEM 4. Information on the Company**

##### ***A. History and Development of the Company***

Interceramic was founded on February 17, 1978 as a closely held a limited liability company with variable capital (*sociedad anónima de capital variable*) by certain members and associates of the Almeida Family. Although Interceramic conducts business in Mexico under the “Interceramic” trade name, its charter name is “*Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V.*,” which translates roughly as “Ceramics International.” The current prescribed duration of Interceramic is to February 28, 2053. Interceramic became a publicly traded company in Mexico in 1987 and in 1994 completed an initial public offering of securities in the United States. American Depositary Receipts (“ADRs”) evidencing five of Interceramic’s “Limited Voting Units,” which are securities comprised of one Series D Share and one Series L Share, are listed on the *New York Stock Exchange, Inc.* (the “NYSE”). Both Limited Voting Units and “Common Units,” which are securities comprised of two Series B Shares, are listed on the *Bolsa Mexicana de Valores, S.A. de C.V.* (the “Mexican Stock Exchange”).

Interceramic’s registered office in Mexico, and principal executive office, is located at Ave. Carlos Pacheco 7200, Chihuahua, Mexico, and its telephone number is 011.52.614.429.1111. The address for the corporate offices of the Company’s United States subsidiaries is 2333 South Jupiter Road, Garland, Texas 75041, telephone number 214.503.5500. The Company’s registered agent in the United States for most purposes is Mark E. Mendel, Esq., Mendel • Blumenfeld, LLP, 5809 Acacia Circle, El Paso, Texas 79912, telephone number 915.587.7878.

In its early history, Interceramic manufactured glazed ceramic floor tile from one production facility located in Chihuahua, Mexico, primarily for sale in the Mexican markets through independent distribution. In 1989, it added another production facility in Mexico, which has almost since inception been owned as a “joint venture,” initially of Interceramic and *Armstrong World Industries, Inc.* (“Armstrong”), but currently with *Dal-Tile International, Inc.* (“Dal-Tile”), as successor to Armstrong’s interest in the venture. Also in the late 1980’s, Interceramic commenced distribution of selected products in the United States. While its initial sales into the United States were through independent distributors, the Company has been steadily increasing a network of Company-owned distribution in the United States. The same holds true in Mexico, where independent distribution gave way in the 1994-1995 period to a mixed network of Company-owned distribution and an extensive, exclusive “Interceramic” franchise web throughout the country. The Company added a new production facility in Chihuahua in 1995, while also opening a manufacturing facility in the United States, in both cases for the production of glazed ceramic wall tile. The Company also manufactures for sale in Mexico grouts and certain adhesives for the installation of ceramic tile products. For the last several years, the Company has focused its efforts in Mexico and the United States on maximizing its profitability and market share through innovation, promotion and marketing. *See* the discussions under B, C and D below.

In late 2000, Interceramic concluded a private placement of 3,636,363 Common Units to *Kohler Co.* (“Kohler”), a leading international producer of bathroom and kitchen fixtures and related products. As a result, Kohler acquired a 6.28 percent stake in the then aggregate outstanding capital stock of the Company and an 11.06 percent ownership of the Series B Shares outstanding at that time, although as a result of subsequent stock issuances Kohler’s stake in the Series B Shares has decreased to 7.50 percent. In the 2000 transaction, Kohler paid a price of US \$3.30 for each new Common Unit, which was in excess of twice the then market price for a Common Unit on the Mexican Stock Exchange.

In connection with its investment in Interceramic, Kohler and Interceramic entered into a letter agreement (as amended, the “Kohler Agreement”) setting forth the terms of the distribution relationship pursuant to which Interceramic would distribute Kohler products, primarily including sinks, bathtubs, sanitary fixtures, faucets and related accessories, in Mexico. Kohler also entered into certain agreements with the Controlling Group. *See* “–B.

Business Overview–The Kohler Agreement” below.

As was the case in both 2001 and 2002, during the course of 2003 the Company did not undertake any material capital projects, and most of its capital expenditures during the year were attributable to development and implementation of the Oracle supply chain management system, the installation of two new technologically advanced kilns in substitution of older kilns, the redesign and automation of the selection and packaging areas in all of the plants and the creation and implementation of a new image for the Company’s wholly-owned stores in the United States, as well as for the routine upgrades of and improvements to existing equipment and facilities.

Aggregate capital expenditures during 2003 were Ps 133.9 million, while in 2002, the Company’s capital expenditures were Ps 181.8 million and in 2001 capital expenditures were Ps 116.2 million. During the course of 2004, the Company expects to incur capital expenditures of approximately Ps 480.0 million, primarily in connection with the recently completed purchase from the Almeida Family of two franchisee distributors in Mexico and on the construction and equipment of a new state-of-the-art production facility to be located in the Mexican city of Chihuahua (the “New Plant”).

## ***B. Business Overview***

### **General**

The Company is engaged in the manufacture and distribution of glazed ceramic floor and wall tile and related products, primarily in Mexico and the United States. The Company produces a broad selection of high quality glazed ceramic floor and wall tile for residential and commercial uses. Products manufactured in its Mexican facilities are marketed by the Company throughout Mexico under the “Interceramic” brand name, using a national network of exclusive franchise stores as well as a number of Company-owned stores in the important Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey and Chihuahua markets. In the United States, the Company effects sales under its own brand names, using its sales subsidiary, *Interceramic, Inc.* (“Interceramic USA”), which sells through independent distributors and a network of wholesale/retail stores owned and operated by Interceramic USA. Operated for many years under the name *Ceramic Tile International*, during the course of 1993 the Company changed the trade name for these stores to “*Interceramic Tile and Stone Galleries*” (“ITS”). Current ITS locations are in Anaheim, California; Dallas, San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth, Plano, Austin and El Paso, Texas; the Atlanta, Georgia, area; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Las Vegas, Nevada; Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona; and Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Company also sells certain of its Mexican production to Dal-Tile for resale in the United States under Dal-Tile brand names. Through Interceramic USA, the Company also manufactures glazed ceramic wall tile in the United States and distributes the production in the United States using the independent distributors and the ITS network. In addition, the Company imports ceramic floor and wall tile, primarily from Italian and Spanish manufacturers, for distribution and sale in the United States and Mexico and manufactures and distributes grouts and adhesive materials in Mexico to complement the Company’s ceramic tile product lines.

Interceramic commenced production in 1978 using the Italian, single-fired (“*monocottura*”) tile production process. The Company was the first tile producer in North America to adopt this technique, which results in lower firing times and energy usage, allowing the production of high quality products at relatively low costs. Since starting operations to the present, the Company’s annual production capacity has gone from 7.2 million to 264.0 million square feet.

Ceramic tile is currently produced by the Company in four facilities, three of which are located in the city of Chihuahua, Mexico, and the other of which is located in the Dallas-Fort Worth area suburb of Garland, Texas.

The Company’s first production facility (the “ICSA Plant”) is owned and operated by Interceramic and with a production capacity of 124.3 million square feet of glazed ceramic floor tile, currently accounts for 47.08 percent of the Company’s installed capacity. The Company manufactures only glazed ceramic floor tile at the ICSA Plant.

The Company's second production facility (the "RISA Plant") is owned and operated by *Recubrimientos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.* ("RISA"), a company owned 50.01 percent by the Company and 49.99 percent by Dal-Tile, and accounts for 25.00 percent of the Company's current installed capacity. The RISA Plant was constructed in 1989, and has a production capacity of 66.0 million square feet. All production of the RISA Plant is currently glazed ceramic floor tile. As successor to Armstrong under contracts entered into between the Company and Armstrong, Dal-Tile has the right to purchase up to 50 percent of the production of the RISA Plant, all in first quality, for sale in the United States.

The Company's third production facility (the "Azulejos Plant"), located adjacent to the RISA Plant, is owned and operated by Interceramic, and accounts for 15.00 percent of the Company's installed capacity. The Azulejos Plant is dedicated to the manufacture of large format wall tile, a popular product in Mexico, and has an annual capacity of 39.6 million square feet. Trim pieces, an important component of the ceramic wall tile markets, particularly in the United States, are also manufactured at the facility, primarily for export.

The Company's fourth production facility (the "Garland Plant"), located in Garland, Texas, is owned and operated by Interceramic USA, and accounts for 12.92 percent of the Company's installed capacity. At the Garland Plant, Interceramic USA is engaged in the manufacture and production of small and larger format glazed ceramic wall tile and related trim pieces, all of which is currently produced for the United States market. The annual capacity of the Garland Plant is 34.1 million square feet of 4¼" and 6" x 6" wall tile, together with related trim pieces.

In addition, at a facility (the "First ABISA Plant"), located adjacent to the ICSA Plant and owned and operated by a subsidiary of the Company, *Adhesivos y Boquillas Interceramic, S. de R.L. de C.V.* ("ABISA"), the Company manufactures and develops grouts and adhesive materials used in the installation of ceramic tile. In 2001 ABISA opened a second grout and adhesive facility (the "Second ABISA Plant") in the central Mexican town of Huichapan. The Second ABISA Plant more than doubled ABISA's capacity and allows the Company to reduce the shipping costs associated with these high-weight but low-cost products to franchisees in the southern part of Mexico. *Custom Building Products of California, Inc.* ("Custom"), a United States producer of similar products, owns 49.00 percent of ABISA's equity.

In 1998, the Company organized a wholly-owned subsidiary, *Distribución Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.* ("DISA"), to own and operate wholesale/retail locations throughout the Mexico City area. Additionally, in 1999, the Company organized *Interacabados de Occidente, S.A. de C.V.* ("Occidente"), another wholly-owned subsidiary, to acquire the operations of the Company's franchisee in the Guadalajara area. In March 2004, the Company purchased all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of *Grupo Comercial Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.* ("GISA") and *Materiales Arquitectónicos Decorativos, S.A. de C.V.* ("MASA"). GISA operates the Company's franchises in the city and state of Chihuahua, while MASA is the owner of the franchise stores in the Monterrey area. GISA was purchased from the Almeida Family and MASA was purchased from the Almeida Family and an associate of the family.

### Production Capacity

At the end of 2003, the Company had a total annual installed capacity of 264.0 million square feet, of which 190.3 million square feet is allocated to the production of glazed ceramic floor tile and 73.7 million square feet is dedicated to the production of glazed ceramic wall tile. For the past four years, all of the Company's plants have been operating at full capacity. The New Plant is expected to increase the Company's production capacity by approximately 25 percent. The production capacities of the respective facilities, expressed in millions of square feet per annum, are:

ICSA Plant	124.3
RISA Plant	66.0

Azulejos Plant	39.6
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Garland Plant	34.1
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In addition to its core business of providing tile for the higher end of the market, the Company also manufactures limited amounts of strategic products for the lower end of the ceramic tile market in Mexico, primarily as a means of introducing potential customers to the higher-end offerings available in the franchise stores. Over the past couple of years, the Company has out-sourced the manufacture of certain of the more basic, or “commodity-type,” products in order to focus its own manufacturing efforts on higher end products, and during 2003 sold 6.4 million square meters of third party products compared to sales of 27.9 million square meters of its own products. The Company has adopted a strategy in Mexico to de-emphasize the distinctions between commodity and other tile products, instead focusing on a broad “Interceramic” product mix at its franchise stores in order to meet virtually every consumer demand for glazed ceramic tile products.

The Company also manufactures a variety of glazed ceramic wall tile products to complement its floor tile. In Mexico, the Company’s wall tile is directed at the medium- and high-end markets. The ceramic wall tile being produced at the Garland Plant is aimed primarily at the United States and Canadian markets, which favor smaller, 4¼” product. However, although it fluctuates during the course of the year, up to a third of the production of the Garland Plant may be at any one time dedicated to a larger format, 6” x 6” wall tile. A material part of the production of wall tile is the manufacture of the related trim pieces for borders, accents and decorative purposes, and both the Azulejos Plant and the Garland Plant are engaged in the production of trim pieces.

### **Ceramic Tile Markets in Mexico and the United States**

Ceramic tile has been used for thousands of years as both functional and decorative veneers on floors and walls. Ceramic tile is just one of many available floor and wall coverings, competing with others such as concrete, carpet, wood, stone, laminates and vinyl. Relative demand for a particular material depends on various factors, and ceramic tiles generally hold a competitive advantage over other available wall and floor coverings in terms of aesthetic appeal, durability, ease of maintenance and fire resistance. Traditionally, their greatest advantage has been their beauty, and their greatest disadvantage has been cost. However, with recent advances in manufacturing and installation technology, the cost gap between ceramic tile and other coverings has narrowed, although installation cost for ceramic tile is typically significantly higher than in the case of alternative floor coverings such as concrete, carpet, laminates and vinyl.

Glazed ceramic tile consumption by product volume increased by a compounded average of 11.31 percent per year in Mexico between 1997 and 2003 and 10.60 percent per year in the United States over the same period. In Mexico, double-digit growth has been fueled by increased construction spending associated with economic recovery since the Peso devaluation in 1994 and by rising personal income levels. Growth in the United States reflects increased consumer preference of ceramic tile vis-à-vis other floor covering alternatives and economic expansion of the 1990’s. Furthermore, ceramic tile products have benefitted from declining prices associated with improvements in manufacturing technology resulting in a more competitively priced package and narrowing the price gap against other floor covering alternatives.

Mexico consumes considerably less ceramic tile per capita than other countries with similar climatic, cultural, architectural and income characteristics, such as Brazil. This disparity represents substantial potential for market growth in Mexico as the country continues to benefit from increased political and economic stability, proximity to the United States and NAFTA integration. Consumption per capita in the United States is even lower

than in Mexico, indicating a large potential for market growth, as ceramic tile gains consumer preference over other floor covering alternatives. This is already evidenced by ceramic tile growth in the United States having outpaced growth of other floor covering formats in recent years due to decreasing prices and shifting architectural trends, which have increasingly emphasized ceramic tile products in construction and remodeling.

## Markets

### *General*

The Company markets its products throughout Mexico, as well as in the United States and Canada and in the past, to a very limited extent, Central America. The vast majority of its sales are in Mexico and the United States, which over the past five years have combined for 99.85 percent of the Company's consolidated sales. Sales in Mexico are made through an extensive franchise network, which includes Company-owned points of sale in the major markets of Mexico City, Guadalajara, Chihuahua and Monterrey, while in the United States, Interceramic USA effects sales through independent dealers and ITS stores. In Canada, most sales are made through one distributor located in Toronto who then makes further distribution throughout the country. The chart on the following page summarizes the Company's consolidated sales by markets.

[Chart on Following Page]

### Historical Mix of Company Sales by Market

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Mexico				
Revenues*	1,729.5	1,880.1	1,842.0	1,920.5
Percent of Consolidated Sales	56.91	59.23	56.37	56.07
United States				
Revenues*	1,307.6	1,292.8	1,424.4	1,503.4
Percent of Consolidated Sales	43.02	40.73	43.60	43.91
Other (Primarily Canada and Latin America)				
Revenues*	2.0	1.3	1.0	1.0
Percent of Consolidated Sales	0.07	0.04	0.03	0.02
Totals				

Revenues*	3,039.1	3,174.2	3,267.4	3,424.9
Percent of Consolidated Sales	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

\*Millions of Pesos

Although the respective percentages of (i) sales in Mexico and (ii) sales comprised of the aggregate of (A) sales of Company production exported from Mexico, (B) production from the Garland Plant and (C) products manufactured by non-affiliates sold outside Mexico (collectively, "International Sales") have varied from year to year, in order to maintain the presence required in both markets for long term penetration, the Company does not intend to materially change the mix between Mexican and International Sales from roughly 50 percent in each of the markets.

### *Mexico*

The Company believes, based on industry sources, that Mexico's market for glazed ceramic tile in 2003 was at least 1,514 million square feet, divided into two main sectors: floor and wall tile. In 2003, floor tile represented approximately 1,141 million square feet and wall tile represented approximately 373 million square feet of the Mexican market. Total consumption of glazed ceramic tile products by volume in Mexico has increased at an estimated compound annual growth rate of 12.23 percent over the last eight years. The estimated 1,514 million square feet of sales for 2003 represents a modest increase of 3.92 percent over an estimated market of about 1,457 million square feet during 2002, a year which showed a much higher consumption increase of 10.00 percent over the preceding year. However, in 2001 growth over 2000 was just 3.47 percent.

The chart on the following page indicates growth in ceramic tile consumption, the construction industry in general and the Mexican gross domestic product, indexed to 1993 as the base year:

[Chart on Following Page]

Index of Ceramic Tile Consumption,

Construction and GDP in Mexico(1)

Year	Ceramic Tile Growth Index(2)	Construction Growth Index(3)	GDP Growth Index(3)
1993	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
1994	104.64	108.43	104.46
1995	79.58	82.99	97.96

1996	91.18	91.10	103.00
1997	108.32	99.55	109.98
1998	128.65	103.76	115.37
1999	138.10	108.94	119.69
2000	151.48	113.51	127.56
2001	143.49	107.07	127.40
2002	144.54	108.41	128.33
2003	150.69	112.09	130.00
CAGR(4)	4.19	1.15	2.66

(1) Constant Pesos.

(2) Source: *Mexican Association of Ceramic Tile Producers*.

(3) Source: *Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática*.

(4) Compounded Annual Growth Rate.

Steady improvement in the Mexican economy since the economic crisis of the mid 1990's has resulted in increased spending on construction of residential and infrastructure projects and corresponding increased demand for construction materials. Further, recovering personal income levels have enabled certain consumers to upgrade or remodel their homes, replacing cement or earthen floors with ceramic tile. Industry studies have indicated that a material percentage of residences in Mexico lack floor coverings of any kind, and the Company believes that remodeling and improvement of existing structures is an important growth area for ceramic tile products. With further improvement in personal income levels and continued political and economic stability in Mexico generally, the Company believes there is significant potential for further growth in ceramic tile consumption.

Prices for glazed ceramic tile in Mexico have generally been decreasing over the past several years for a number of reasons, including increased competition, initially from imports but increasingly from large capacity additions by domestic producers and the savings generated by technological advances in the production process. Despite the industry trend of declining prices, the Company has over the same period been able to increase its selling prices modestly in the extremely competitive market.

Prior to the last major economic crisis in Mexico, a significant share of the ceramic tile market in Mexico, estimated by the Company to be approximately 10.37 percent during 1994, was held by imports, primarily from Spain and Italy. The Peso devaluation had a significant adverse effect on ceramic tile imports in Mexico, decreasing import participation in the domestic markets by almost 90 percent. Since the Mexican economy stabilized late in the 1990's imports have slowly regained market share and at an estimated nine percent of the market in 2003 have virtually recovered their pre-devaluation market share. Prior to the devaluation the Company had imported a substantial amount of product for resale in Mexico, but for a number of years the Company imported no foreign tile products for sale in Mexico. Starting late in 2002, the Company resumed imports of foreign product, substantially all of which is aimed at the lower-end of the markets to enable the Company to focus its limited production capacity on higher-end products

while offering the consumer a broad spectrum of products.

In Mexico, sales are made to contractors, builders and architects for residential and commercial new construction and renovation. In addition, a substantial amount of the sales in Mexico are made directly to the end consumer, with homeowners purchasing tile directly and contracting with an installer to lay the tile. Particularly in the home building and renovation markets, in Mexico consumers are much more likely to be involved in the selection of ceramic tile for their homes than are consumers in the United States. As a result of the Company's strategy to direct most of its product mix among the high and middle ends of the market, the Company considers its customer base to be increasingly influenced by the middle class consumer, particularly those involved in the remodeling or improvement of existing properties.

#### *United States*

Based on statistics compiled by the United States Department of Commerce (the "Commerce Department") and estimates and projections reported in a 2003 study of the United States ceramic tile industry by *Economic Industry Reports, Inc.* (the "2003 Study"), the ceramic tile industry in the United States was relatively flat for a number of years until the last decade. Consumption in the United States increased dramatically over the period, increasing by 211.40 percent over 1992 to an estimated market in 2003 of 2,595.5 million square feet compared to 833.4 million square feet in 1992. Similar to Mexico, 2000 saw substantial growth of 11.66 percent over the preceding year while 2001 saw much slower growth, with the market increasing by only 3.47 percent over 2000—in the latter case most likely greatly attributable to the uncertainty sparked by the events of September 11, 2001. The market rebounded considerably in 2002, increasing by 10.00 percent over 2001, an increase of more than 133 million square feet. In 2003, growth slowed again, and ceramic tile consumption increased by only 3.92 percent over 2002. The Company believes that the key to growth in ceramic tile consumption in the United States has been and will continue to be ceramic tile gaining market share over other types of floor and wall coverings. According to the publication "*Specialists in Business Information*," in the period 1993 through 1998 the market for ceramic tile grew at a compound annual rate of 10.7 percent while carpet grew at 2.4 percent, hardwood at 6.2 percent, resilient sheet and tile at 4.1 percent and rubber flooring at 5.8 percent. While somewhat dated, and while the study also did not include the figures for "laminated" flooring, a fairly recent and fast growing entrant into the flooring markets, the Company considers the trends identified in this study to remain generally sound and confirms the Company's belief that ceramic tile demand is increasing faster than demand for most other types of floor products.

Although the overall market for glazed ceramic floor and wall tile in the United States, according to the 2003 Study, increased during the time period from 1990 to 2003 at an average annual rate of 9.16 percent, during the same period, however, the price obtained per unit has been generally decreasing. The average price per unit for glazed ceramic tile products of domestic producers dipped \$0.07 per square foot in 2001 over 2000, and declined further by \$0.02 to an estimated \$1.10 per square foot in 2002. The trend continued in 2003 as prices decreased by \$0.05 per square foot over 2002. Imports continue to lag behind domestic production in pricing however—having reached a peak of \$0.96 per square foot in 1989, the average price for imported glazed ceramic tile products stood at \$0.79 per square foot at the end of 2003. Imported products in the United States thus trade at an average 28.18 percent discount over domestic products. While glazed ceramic tile prices have slipped, other types of ceramic floor and wall tile have achieved modest price gains over the same periods. For both domestic and foreign producers, the reduction in price per unit is primarily due to competition and reduced production costs. As manufacturers have realized cost savings through technological advances and as a result of competitive pressures in the marketplace, the savings have tended to be passed on to the consumers. Because over half of the United States market is composed of imports, the Company believes that the United States ceramic tile market is representative of global ceramic tile markets. As most of the competitive and technological pressures and advances have already occurred at global pricing levels, the Company expects that prices of glazed ceramic tile in the United States will be substantially the same for the foreseeable future.

In the United States, the Company competes with several domestic producers, as well as imports from Italy, Spain, Mexico and other countries. However, the Company's sales in the glazed ceramic floor and wall tile market in



the United States have grown significantly, from approximately US \$14.8 million in 1989 to US \$134.6 million in 2003. Based upon information contained in the 2003 Study, the Company estimates that its share of the glazed ceramic floor tile market in the United States was 6.33 percent at the end of 2003, slightly less than an estimated market share of 6.78 percent in 2002. This reflects not only the burgeoning growth of the ceramic tile markets in the United States over the years but also a slight erosion in the Company's market share from around eight percent in the late 1990's.

Although the Company sells its products in other Central and Latin American countries, as well as in Canada, 99.93 percent of International Sales are to the United States. Of the total International Sales by volume during 2003, 57.58 percent consisted of sales of glazed ceramic floor and wall tile manufactured by the Company and the remaining 42.42 percent consisted of tile imported by the Company or purchased by Interceramic USA from United States or foreign producers. The significant increase in sales of non-Company products—they accounted for only 17.76 percent of sales in 2002—resulted from the Company's decision to purchase substantial amounts of product from third-party suppliers in order to allow the Company to dedicate more of its own production capacity to higher margin products. Of the total International Sales for 2003, 25.69 percent consisted of sales through independent distributors and 68.62 percent consisted of sales through ITS stores, with the remainder being sold through Dal-Tile and customers in Central and Latin America.

In the United States, the Company sells to ITS, as well as to independent distributors, usually one for each major metropolitan area in the United States other than those in which an ITS store is located. The distributors then sell to floor covering dealers, builders, general contractors, floor covering contractors and the installer trade located in their respective sales areas. The usual customers for the Company's products in the United States are contractors for new residential and commercial construction and, to a lesser degree, industrial construction. In addition, a significant percentage of sales is made in connection with home and office remodeling and renovation, both to the professional contractor, architect and interior decorator, as well as, to a much more limited extent than in Mexico, to the retail consumer.

## **Strategy**

### *General*

For a variety of reasons, including vastly differing economic conditions and income levels, differences in consumer and cultural preferences and disparate climatic conditions, the ceramic tile markets in Mexico and the United States differ from each other in many material respects. Accordingly, the Company has developed focused business strategies for each market. However, with all of the Company's production facilities currently running at full capacity, the Company is pursuing a basic strategy in both markets to increase its gross margins by focusing its product mix on the higher end segments of the market and gaining market share in these segments. In order to do so, the Company is concentrating on the development of new, innovative and first-class products for sale in both Mexico and the United States. For example, during 2003 the Company introduced 40 new product lines, including a number of highly-sought "porcelain" products. At the same time, the Company believes it extremely important to maintain a full array of product offerings for the complete range of consumer tastes and budgets. To avoid erosion of its market share by producing insufficient quantities of products, during the course of 2002, the Company established a number of "private label" programs with third party manufacturers in order to be able to meet product demand as well as to focus its own manufacturing capacity on higher end products. The products developed under the private label programs are aimed at the lower, less expensive segments of the market in order to provide a full-line of ceramic tile product offerings to its customers as well as to enable the Company to dedicate all of its own production capacity to the more innovative, more expensive products.

The New Plant, a new production facility located in Chihuahua, Mexico, is currently under construction and slated to open early in the second quarter of 2005. The New Plant will increase the Company's overall capacity by about 25 percent and should reduce need for some of the third party production.

The Company also continues to pursue strict control over operating expenses and further efficiencies in the production process in order to increase margins as much as possible within the limits imposed by current production capacity.

### *Mexico*

Since the substantial recovery of the Mexican economy in the later years of the 1990's, the Company's central strategy has been increasing market share, primarily through the improvement of the selling prices for its products. This strategy has continued with the Company concentrating on improving its product mix to obtain higher margins on virtually the same volume of product by square meter. The Company has focused on improving its margins by obtaining a better product mix in its franchise stores and is directing its efforts towards obtaining real price increases. This has been achieved to a great extent over the past few years, and will continue to be the Company's prime strategy. The existence of the exclusive franchise stores makes it easier for the Company to introduce new products into the market, without having to develop entirely new distribution systems and networks. Further, with Company-owned distribution in the two dominant domestic markets of Mexico City and Guadalajara, joined in March 2004 by the acquisition of the Company's franchisees in Chihuahua and Monterrey, the Company is able to obtain additional margin on sales—a strategy that has proven valuable through the ITS distribution network in the United States.

In 1994, the Company terminated its relationships with poorer distributors and converted the remaining core of its existing distributors into exclusive, franchise distributors. This conversion resulted in several benefits for the Company, including increased time and sales efforts of distributor personnel with respect to the Company's products, increasing the level of promotions and advertising for the Company's products and improving the exhibition of the Company's products in ceramic tile showrooms. The Company believes that presentation of its wide mix of products at exclusive stores prominently bearing the "Interceramic" name has been a major factor in its ability to increase market share since the devaluation. By the end of 1994, all distributors had been either terminated or converted into franchises and at the end of 1995, the Company had 126 franchise stores operating in 73 different Mexican cities. Additional franchises have been opened since then and the entire network consolidated, reviewed and strengthened, and at December 31, 2003, the Company had 200 franchise stores operating in more than 114 Mexican cities.

Since 1997, the Company has owned its own distribution in the Mexico City area and has devoted considerable energies towards establishing its presence in Mexico City through advertising campaigns and opening of new, "Interceramic" stores. At the end of 2003, the Company owned 21 stores in Mexico City. In keeping with the Company's desire to own distribution directly in important markets, in 1999 the Company acquired the operations of its franchisee in the city of Guadalajara, one of the largest markets in Mexico, and was operating 13 stores in the area at the end of 2003. In 2002, the Company increased its presence in both the Mexico City and Guadalajara area markets by purchasing the operations of two existing franchisees, resulting in the acquisition of four stores in Toluca, near Mexico City, and three more stores in Morelia, a center on the main route between Mexico City and Guadalajara. By the end of 2003, the Company had five stores each in the Toluca and Morelia areas. By the acquisition of MASA and GISA at the end of March 2004, the Company further expanded its Company-owned network in Mexico into the major markets of Chihuahua and Monterrey. The acquisition resulted in the Company owning 19 stores throughout the northern Mexican state and city of Chihuahua and nine stores in the Monterrey area, a heavily industrialized city in northeastern Mexico.

The Company continually supports each of its exclusive franchises with consulting services covering a variety of operational matters, including inventory maintenance, implementation of inventory systems, marketing and training of sales and management personnel. The Company is strongly committed to the franchise concept in Mexico, and believes that it has reinforced brand recognition with trade customers, architects and other consumers of ceramic tile products.

In keeping with its position in the Mexican markets as a supplier of a complete line of ceramic tile products, the Company also manufactures glazed ceramic wall tile in a number of formats. In Mexico the Company has focused

on the high end wall tile market, which for years had been dominated by European imports; and the Company has been able to stay largely out of the extremely price-sensitive commodity wall tile segment. With its distribution network and its ability to outperform imports in price, product offering and service, the Company believes it has made a material impact on the Mexican ceramic wall tile market, estimating that its share of the Mexican glazed ceramic wall tile market has gone from about three percent in 1992 to approximately 19 percent at the end of 2003.

The Company also markets products complementary to ceramic tile, such as plumbing fixtures and grouts and adhesives. Promoting package formats consisting of ceramic floor and wall tile, sanitary fixtures and grouts and adhesives increases customer convenience and is in keeping with the usual Mexican practice of providing a complete line of ceramic tile products, sanitary and other bathroom and kitchen fixtures and related products in the same store. This strategy is particularly important to the Company in light of its conversion from independent distributors in Mexico to exclusive franchises. By entering into the production of wall tile, expanding its grout and adhesive production, marketing sanitary fixtures, faucets and kitchen and bathroom accessories and related products the Company provides a full scope of products in the franchise stores. Sanitary fixtures and related products directed toward the high-end market are purchased by the Company from Kohler and resold to the Company's franchisees throughout Mexico. Middle and lower end products are purchased by the franchisees directly from *Ideal Standard, S.A. de C.V.*, a Mexican affiliate of *American Standard, Inc.* (collectively, "American Standard") under the terms of an agreement between the Company and American Standard (the "American Standard Agreement"). See "–The Kohler Agreement" and "–The American Standard Agreement" below.

The Company considers it an important strategic step to develop and market grouts and adhesives for the installation of ceramic tile products. The Company's relationship with Custom was entered into in order to avail the Company of the technical expertise necessary to produce high quality grouts and adhesives. See "–The Custom Agreement" below. Although its capacity has been expanded over the years, the production capacity of the First ABISA Plant is well behind the ceramic tile production of the Company. In 2001, ABISA placed the Second ABISA Plant into production, not only more than doubling the production capacity of ABISA, but also allowing the Company to reduce the costs associated with shipping these products to its franchise locations in the southern part of Mexico. As grouts and adhesives are relatively low priced products but heavy and bulky, minimizing transportation costs is important in keeping them competitively priced.

#### *United States*

The fundamental strategy of the Company in the United States has been to increase its market share, initially by taking market share from other producers in a relatively flat ceramic floor tile market, but with the recent growth in ceramic tile consumption in the United States, also by taking advantage of this growth. The Company believes that ceramic floor tile continues to gain market share in the United States against carpeting and vinyl covering in residential and commercial applications, and that the Company can best exploit this trend by producing innovative, high-design floor and wall tile. Carpeting is currently the overwhelming floor covering of choice in the United States, and in recent years easy to install "laminates"–or synthetic wood or other patterned flooring–has made material gains in the overall flooring industry. Although ceramic tile is generally much more expensive, both in cost and installation, than carpet, laminates and many other alternative floor coverings, the Company believes that as consumer awareness grows and new and innovative product lines are marketed, ceramic tile should gain further market share against other floor coverings.

Management believes that there is substantial demand for quality, competitively priced wall tile in the United States. The Garland Plant was developed to respond to this perceived demand. The Garland Plant was designed as a state-of-the-art wall tile facility, with aggregate annual production capacity of 34.1 million square feet of primarily 4¼" wall tile and related trim pieces such as borders, corners and accents, although the Garland Plant also produces material amounts of 6" x 6", larger format wall tile. The Company's focus continues to be on marketing and developing a strong, distinctive line of products and related trim to take advantage of the sales opportunities it believes to be available in the expanding ceramic tile markets in the United States. Further, the Company is focusing on improving

prices obtained on products manufactured in the Garland Plant to enable the Company to achieve better margins.

The Company's penetration of the United States glazed ceramic floor tile market is attributed by management to several factors. Primary among these has been the role of Interceramic USA in coordinating distribution and sales in the United States and providing an ability to furnish distributors and consumers with rapid, consistent and excellent service from the Company's United States employees. Further, the Company believes that its aggressive introductions of new and innovative products into the United States market, together with related marketing campaigns, have also been beneficial.

A pillar of the Company's United States strategy has been to develop and expand its distribution network, not only through independent distributors, but in particular through the expansion of the ITS store network. At the beginning of 1993, Interceramic USA operated a total of three stores, and by the end of 2003, it operated 19. Focusing on the southern United States, where ceramic tile is more in demand, at December 31, 2003, ITS stores were located in Dallas, Fort Worth, Plano, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Spring and El Paso, Texas; the Atlanta, Georgia area; Las Vegas, Nevada; Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Anaheim, California and Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A new store is to open in the second quarter of 2004 in San Diego, California. The Company consistently records higher sales volumes and better profit margins in the United States through ITS sales as opposed to independent distributors, and will continue to add new ITS stores in the United States when opportunities present themselves, including the possible acquisition of existing ceramic tile stores owned by other parties.

Under the joint venture arrangement with Dal-Tile, RISA sells glazed ceramic floor tile to Dal-Tile for resale under the Dal-Tile and American Olean names in its company-owned outlets and through the American Olean network of independent distributors. The ability to sell RISA production to the large Dal-Tile/American Olean network in the United States provides the Company with the ability to achieve further material, if less direct, sales in the United States.

## **Competition**

### *General*

In addition to the competition that the Company faces from other ceramic tile producers, the Company's products compete with numerous other floor coverings for residential, commercial and industrial uses. Among such coverings are carpet, the popular laminates, vinyl, stone products (such as marble, granite, slate and limestone tile) and unglazed tile (such as terra cotta and porcelain). Ceramic tile products are typically more expensive than carpeting, laminate and vinyl coverings, and are generally cheaper than stone products. The cost of installation of tile products, including ceramic tile, is significantly higher than the cost of laying carpet, laminates or vinyl. In general, however, glazed ceramic tile products offer longer wear-time periods and superior resistance to corrosives than do other coverings.

In both Mexico and the United States, it is difficult for the Company to accurately determine its position in the market compared to other competitors due to the lack of reliable production and sales data from companies not under reporting requirements such as those imposed on Interceramic under the 1934 Act. Accordingly, although sufficient information exists both in Mexico and the United States for the Company to judge its position in the overall market, it is unable to accurately fix the market share of most of its major competitors.

### *Mexico*

The Company's production capacity expanded significantly over its first 15 years of operation. However, the Company has not increased production capacity since 1996, other than a trim line added at the Garland Plant and periodic increases in production capacity achieved through improved efficiencies in its existing production processes. For example, during 2000 the Company's ability to increase its percentage of first class production added almost two

million square feet of salable production capacity. The Company estimates its current market share of glazed ceramic floor and wall tile to be approximately 19 percent by Dollar sales volume. The Company believes that it is the premier cost-efficient producer of first quality ceramic floor and wall tile in Mexico and that ceramic tile sold under the "Interceramic" name may be sold at premium prices because of its reputation for quality and high brand-name loyalty. The Company believes that its tightly-knit, national network of exclusive Interceramic franchises is a major competitive advantage. In addition, the Company believes that its ownership of the stores in the Mexico City and Guadalajara markets is materially beneficial to the Company's penetration of and presence in those important markets. The recent acquisition of the franchises in Chihuahua and Monterrey should also prove very beneficial to the Company, as these franchises were among the most successful in the country-wide network.

In Mexico, the Company competes with a limited number domestic manufacturers of ceramic tile, including Porcelanite, Vitromex, Lamosa and, to a lesser extent, a Mexican affiliate of Dal-Tile. Although there are other domestic producers as well as foreign manufacturers which import tile in the Mexican market, the market is dominated by the four largest producers (including the Company), who collectively account for almost 80 percent of the market. The Company believes that the Mexican market for ceramic tile can be broken down into two broad segments, high quality tile (which comprises approximately one-third of the market) and commodity tile (which comprises approximately two-thirds of the market). High quality tile is distinguished from commodity tile on the basis of strength, durability, innovation and aesthetic design. Selection is also greater at the higher end, with a wider variety of colors, styles and sizes. In the high end segments, quality, selection, innovation and customer service are important aspects of a product's position in the market. Historically, the Company has focused on the medium to high end of the tile market, where initially it faced competition mainly from European imports, and in more recent years, Vitromex and Porcelanite. While following the Peso devaluation competition from imports decreased materially, imports have recovered most of their pre-devaluation market share and may prove to be more of a factor in coming years if the Mexican economy continues to grow and stabilize.

As a result of the Company's belief that it needs to supply lower-end, strategic products to provide a complete product offering to effectively compete against other domestic producers and attract all types of potential consumers to its stores, the Company also manufactures lower-end products. At the lower-end market segment, however, profit margins are smaller and competition is almost totally based on price. Particularly in light of its current capacity constraints, the Company redirected its strategy to out-source the production of strategic products as well as to present them as part of a comprehensive Interceramic line available at its exclusive franchise stores, rather than directing sales at specific low-end markets. This has assisted the Company in concentrating its production on higher margin products as the Company has pursued a strategy of developing more innovative, high design products in order to take advantage of the higher selling prices and margins available to the higher quality products. This strategy has proven valuable for several reasons, including helping the Company differentiate its products from the competition as well as keeping the Company largely out of the price wars that have been waged in the low end market segments. The success of the strategy has been demonstrated by the fact that the Company's prices are on balance about 20 percent higher than those of the Mexican ceramic tile industry in general.

Although the Company believes it is the only glazed ceramic tile producer in Mexico with 100 percent of its installed capacity being state of the art, certain of its competitors have invested significantly in modernization and renovation in recent years as well as completing significant capacity expansions. While the Company is fourth among the domestic producers in production capacity, it possesses the highest market share in the high end markets. There are material barriers to entry in the high end markets, and management believes that its current position in the market and, in particular, its strong domestic franchise distribution, are significant competitive advantages.

#### *United States*

The United States floor covering market in general, and the ceramic tile industry in particular, is highly competitive in terms of price, service and quality of products. The Company, through Interceramic USA, competes with several domestic manufacturers, such as the domestic market leader Dal-Tile, as well as numerous foreign

producers of ceramic tile whose products are sold in the United States at very competitive prices. According to the 2003 Study, there were 33 companies manufacturing glazed ceramic floor and wall tile in the United States at the end of 2003—a dozen more than at the end of 1998—yet 79.4 percent by product volume and 73.7 percent by sales volume of the glazed ceramic floor and wall tile market in 2003 was held by imports. Management believes that Interceramic USA has been successful in penetrating the more mature, highly competitive United States glazed ceramic floor tile market. Innovative products, strong distribution, aggressive marketing and competitive pricing have all contributed significantly to the Company's market penetration in the United States. *See* “–Markets” above.

In the glazed ceramic wall tile industry, the Company faces greater competitive obstacles, due primarily to the relative simplicity of the small format wall tile and the long-term dominance of a handful of domestic producers. The Company continues to work to improve its competitive position in this market by concentrating on the production and marketing of interesting and innovative trim pieces that will better distinguish its products from those of competitors.

### **The Production of Glazed Ceramic Tile**

The ceramic tile production process begins with the excavation of clays to be used in the manufacturing process and the transportation of the clays to the production facilities from mine sites. Upon arrival at the facilities, clay is kept in open storage bins while awaiting processing. Depending on the type of tile being produced, any number from two to more than six different types and colors of clays may be blended together.

The selected clays and water are mixed and pumped into large, rotating cylindrical mills, where the grinding action of thousands of baseball-sized crushing balls made of high density alumina pulverizes pebbles, granules and clumps of clay into a uniform substrate. The resultant mixture, or “body slip,” is then pumped out of the ball mills and pumped into holding tanks, called slip tanks, before being pumped into a silo-like structure, called a spray-dryer, where the body slip is subjected to blown hot air to evaporate the water. The result, after each evaporating cycle of the spray-dryer, is a very fine, uniform, powder-like substance similar to exceedingly fine sand. This material is carried by conveyor belt to a separate holding bin. The production method to this point is batched, so that loading unit batches and hoses carry computer programmed amounts of clay and water from slip tanks to the spray drier, to powder storage bins and, finally, to tile presses in a continuous, automated process adjusted to production targets and timing. Spray-drying, for example, can be calibrated to adjust for red-bodied tile or white-bodied tile.

The powder is then fed into molds within a hydraulic press, one press for each production line, where the powder is molded into the selected geometric shape and size for the tile being produced and is subjected to extreme pressures, producing a molded ceramic tile. These presses can produce in excess of 10,000 square feet of tile per production line per eight-hour shift during an ordinary production shift. The efficiency of the pressing phase is critical to the production process to reduce the presence of gaseous materials which could weaken the tile body.

At this point the tile, which is hard but brittle, is subject to an initial drying stage, and is fed automatically along a conveyor belt where glazes and designs are administered through automated washing, brushing and silk-screening equipment. The glazed tile is then fed into a long, high temperature kiln, accommodating four or more lines of tile, depending on the size of the tile being fired and the type of kiln being used, with ceramic rollers inside the kiln moving the tile along the approximately 260 foot-length of the kiln, depending on the type of kiln used. The single-firing lasts from 45 to 50 minutes from the time the tile is delivered to the kiln door, via continuous feeding conveyor belts, until the tile emerges, fired, at the opposite end. The internal temperature rises steadily from the loading aperture through the length of the enclosed kiln to temperatures as high as 2200° Fahrenheit. The tile that emerges is extremely hard, durable and impact resistant.

Finally, the fired tile, automatically stacked in multiple layer loading trays, is moved by robotic machinery through the quality control inspection points where the tile is magnetically scanned for defects and visually examined for sorting according to variations in the color of the glaze, chipping or other surface defects. Once identified as first,

or second quality, the tile is sorted mechanically and then stacked, boxed, sealed and labeled for shipping, all by specialized equipment. The major difference between first quality and second quality tile is in the uniformity of the shading of the products, with some minor surface defects being permitted for second quality tile.

The Company believes that its manufacturing facilities and state of the art technology have resulted in increased efficiencies and high quality products at relatively lower costs as compared to older technology. The adoption of the Italian developed monocottura technology using single-firing of ceramic tile through rapid-cycle kilns revolutionized the production of ceramic tile, resulting in dramatic reductions in the firing times associated with older processes. In addition, the single-fired process permits a better integration with other production cycles required for the manufacture of glazed ceramic tile, such as pressing and glazing, allowing for increased automation and partial robotization. High quality, extremely durable ceramic tile, measured by low porosity, low absorption and impact resistance, is economically achieved by the single-fired process.

### **The Research and Development Center**

Adjacent to the ICSA Plant in Chihuahua, the Company has a specialized Research and Development Center which serves several purposes. The Company is continuously engaged in research and development of harder and more wear-resistant tile, improved combinations of clays, scratch and chip resistant glazes and enamels, and different combinations of colors, designs and surface textures for glazes. In addition, the Research and Development Center has instruments to measure specifications of tile and glaze and to quality control-test production line tile. The facility includes all the machinery and equipment necessary to replicate the entire full scale production process, to several different scales, in order to test and improve production techniques and to subject newly developed products to normal production conditions. It is particularly well-suited for turning out runs of glazed ceramic floor or wall tile to order. The Research and Development Center also enables the Company to develop new products quickly and to be timely in its response to changes in the market for ceramic tile.

### **Raw Materials and Supplies**

The Company is not dependent on any one outside supplier for any of the raw materials used in its business, although it may from time to time purchase supplies (for example, alumina grinding balls) from only one supplier because of price and/or quality considerations.

Generally, making ceramic floor tile requires three types of high quality clay—including green body, red body and grey body clays. Substantially all supplies of clay for floor tile production used in the Mexico operations are obtained from the Company's own mines, which are estimated to have sufficient reserves to supply the Company's projected needs for manufacture of ceramic floor tile for at least the next 60 years. These mines are located approximately 20 miles from the Company's production facilities in Chihuahua.

Depending on the specific type of wall tile being manufactured, that process may involve the mixing of four to six different types of white body clay. The Company currently owns sources of two types of the white body clays which are used in the production of the large format wall tile at the Azulejos Plant as well as in the production of small format wall tile at the Garland Plant. Although the Company is investigating the possibility of purchasing sources of other white body clays in both the United States and Mexico, it currently is purchasing supplies of these other white body clays from unrelated parties in Mexico and the United States, and has not had nor does it anticipate any difficulties in obtaining and maintaining supplies of these clays.

Although the Company believes that most of its competitors have access to sufficient sources of raw materials, the Company believes that its clays are of generally higher quality than that of most competitors, resulting in the production of a clay body with lower porosity and water absorption than bodies formed from many other clays. Further, with the exception of the white clays needed for wall tile production, the Company owns the full range of clays needed for all types and grades of ceramic tile produced by it.

Clay in Mexico is delivered to the production facilities by truck, although some white clays are imported from the United States and delivered by train. In the United States, clay for production at the Garland Plant is transported by train to a location in the Dallas area, where it is loaded in trucks and delivered to the Garland Plant.

Other raw materials, such as enamels, coloring agents, corundum, oxides, various chemicals and reagents and packaging material are commercially available from Mexican, European or United States suppliers. Management believes that adequate quantities of raw materials and supplies required for the manufacture of ceramic tile are and will continue to be readily available from suppliers in the United States, Europe and Mexico.

### **Product Lines**

The Company manufactures and sells glazed ceramic and porcelain floor and wall tile, as well as grouts and adhesives for applying these products. Additionally, under the Kohler Agreement and the American Standard Agreement, in Mexico the Company markets various sanitary fixtures, faucets, bathroom accessories and related products and hardware in its franchise stores. Kohler products are directed at the high-end market while the American Standard products are geared more towards the mid- and low-end markets. The Company believes that providing a broad product mix is important, particularly in Mexico where customers traditionally expect it and where some of the Company's significant competitors maintain full product lines. See “–Strategy” above.

The Company's products are manufactured according to various use specifications and are marketed accordingly. Residential Light grade tile covers ceramic tile intended to be used in applications where the likely incidence of wear and corrosion is low, such as in bathrooms and kitchens, while Commercial Moderate and Commercial Heavy grade tile is used for different applications in restaurants, shopping malls and public buildings and is sold for commercial (including exterior) application where wear and corrosive conditions are likely to be higher. In between the Residential Light and Commercial Moderate grades, different types of tile range from Residential Moderate and Heavy to Commercial Light.

The Company currently features over 100 different product lines. In Mexico, the Company markets all of its ceramic tile under the “Interceramic” name, with different styles, types, colors and grades being given distinct style names. The Company also markets sanitary and bathroom fixtures, faucets and accessories manufactured by American Standard exclusively in Mexico under the Interceramic brand name and similar products manufactured by Kohler under the Kohler name. In the United States, the Company markets its manufactured products under the Interceramic name only, but American Olean and Dal-Tile products produced by RISA are sold in the United States by Dal-Tile. Particularly in Mexico, the Company's product mix covers most market segments, encompassing all segments under the “Interceramic” brand with different product names, depending on the type of product and the market segment to which it is directed. This provides distributors with a complete line of ceramic tile and related products, strengthening the exclusive distributorship concept. Regardless of the segment, however, the Company's products are all generally priced higher than competitors' products and are distinguished by higher quality and design. All of the Company's products meet or exceed American National Standards Institute minimum specifications for the various tolerances of ceramic tile, such as water absorption, abrasive hardness, breaking strength, thermal shock, scratch hardness of glaze, frost resistance, warpage and bonding strength.

Each product line is offered in a variety of colors and sizes, and many products are offered in square as well as smaller rectangular shapes for contrast. Each product line features a characteristic surface glaze, depending on the intended use as well as on the style and appearance sought to be achieved. Glazes range from shiny, smooth and vitreous, with uniformity of color, to smooth, matted finishes with the color variations characteristic of marble or porcelain, to surfaces with a grainy texture and mottled appearance. Some of the Company's more popular products have rugged, multi-colored, -shaded or -tinted surfaces with the appearance of hewn stone.

In 1999, the Company launched new products using a “rectified” technique which produces ceramic tile with marble- and granite-like patterns and textures. These relatively expensive products have been very well received in the



markets, particularly in Mexico. During 2000 the Company launched a coordinated series of floor and wall tile, manufactured in Mexico and in Garland, which provides wall and floor tile in larger formats and with similar features giving the appearance of natural stone. This series is complemented by trim wall and floor pieces produced to match with the exact same design, making perfect match coordinates. Also in 2000, the Company introduced a new line of marbled tile with fine design and high definition, resulting in a look practically like natural marble.

In 2002, the Company began sales of porcelain tile products manufactured in its Mexican facilities, initially in the United States but by the end of the year the Company was selling these products in Mexico as well. A very strong, innovative and attractive product, porcelain tile currently represents the pinnacle of the glazed ceramic tile offerings in the market. By moving into production of these upscale products the Company has effectively responded to a competitive threat led by primarily European manufacturers.

Interceramic USA also imports, primarily from Spain, Italy and Brazil, and purchases from other United States manufacturers, other ceramic tile products such as glazed ceramic wall tile in a variety of styles, shapes, colors and glazes, as well as glazed and unglazed ceramic floor tile, stone and marble products. Interceramic USA also distributes marble and granite floor tile produced by third-party manufacturers, and sells through the ITS network a significant amount of products produced by third parties. For example, ITS's sales for 2003 of US \$92.4 million were comprised of 39.20 percent ceramic tile manufactured by the Company with the balance consisting of products manufactured by other foreign and domestic companies.

Beginning in 2002, the Company commenced imports of strategic products into both the Mexican and United States markets, primarily from Italy and Spain, in its "private label" program in order to ensure sufficient quantities of these lower-end products in its customer offerings as well as to allow the Company to dedicate its own production capacity to the higher-end products.

## **Distribution and Marketing**

### *Distribution*

The Company believes that its continued strength is highly dependent upon its strong and modern distribution channel throughout North America that emphasizes its commitment to the final consumer. In Mexico, the Company effects sales solely through its system of independent franchise distributors and its Company owned stores in the Mexico City, Guadalajara, Chihuahua and Monterrey areas. As of December 31, 2003, this network consisted of 28 distributors with 200 outlets located throughout Mexico, each prominently displaying the Interceramic name. Due in part to the prominence of the franchise stores and a series of eye-catching advertising campaigns, market presence is strong throughout all areas of Mexico. The Company is continually monitoring its franchise network, dropping poor performing distributors or store locations and replacing or substituting as necessary. In late 1997, the Company terminated its relationship with its then franchisee in Mexico City, resulting in the loss of 31 points of sale. However, the Company aggressively pursued a strategy to establish a stronger presence in the Mexican capitol city through the opening of flagship, Company owned stores. The first store opened early in 1998, and by the end of 2003, the Company had 21 stores operating in Mexico City. With the acquisition and expansion of the Toluca franchise, the Company has five more stores to add to its Mexico City area presence.

Early in 1999, the Company acquired the business of its franchisee in the Guadalajara, Mexico area through a negotiated transaction under which the Company's Occidente subsidiary took possession of the eight locations in Guadalajara and substantially all of the assets and inventory used at those locations. At the end of 2003, the Company had 13 stores in the area. Three more Guadalajara-area stores were added to this total in early 2002 with the purchase of the Morelia franchise. Since the acquisition, the Company has added two additional stores in the Morelia area.

The Company believes that its relationship with its franchise distributors is one of the most important factors in its success in the Mexican markets. Franchisees are selected very carefully, and are required to carry and market

solely products manufactured or otherwise authorized for sale by the Company, offering consumers a complete package that includes ceramic floor and wall tile, grouts and adhesives, sanitary fixtures, faucets, kitchen and bathroom accessories and related products. Additionally, franchisees must follow guidelines regarding store layout and exhibition techniques, provision of qualified customer services, pricing and business standards, designed to insure the perception of the Company and its products in the marketplace as first class in both quality and service. As part of its commitment to the franchise system, the Company has implemented a strong training and operational support program in order to help accelerate and solidify the development of the franchises. In recent years, the Company has also assisted franchisees with store remodeling and construction in order to facilitate the prominent presence of the “Interceramic” stores in their respective communities. The Company believes that the franchise system has proven successful, resulting in greater aggregate levels of sales and allowing the Company to maintain market share despite the poor economic conditions in Mexico in the middle years of the prior decade, and providing the Company with a strong base throughout Mexico during the recent years of modest recovery.

Sales to the United States and Canada are effected through Interceramic USA, which sells to a network of 79 independent distributors with a combined 180 locations, as well as to the 19 ITS locations. The Company has found that sales through ITS stores of Company products are typically much greater than through independent distributors, and the Company intends to continue the development of the ITS network in the United States, particularly in areas where existing distributors are not meeting the market potential. Additionally, Dal-Tile markets floor tile produced at the RISA Plant through its distribution network in the United States. Interceramic USA distributes substantially all Company products sold throughout the United States from its facilities in the Dallas, Texas area. Interceramic USA’s facilities in Dallas are headquartered in the Garland Plant, and also include separately leased distribution warehouses.

### *Marketing*

Advertising and marketing are important to the Company’s business strategies, and the Company expends significant amounts annually in respect of advertising and marketing. Because the Mexican and International markets vary in several material respects, the Company takes a different approach in its marketing efforts in the two markets.

In Mexico, the Company promotes brand-name recognition and sales by advertising to the general public in the print and radio media, and has periodically conducted aggressive, nation-wide print and television media advertising campaigns, designed to heighten name recognition and product visibility. Advertising strategy has shifted more to the point of sale, with distinctive, high-profile stores and vignette displays and other materials promoting the Company and its products in the exclusive franchise stores. This involves working closely with its franchise network in creating product display strategies, by arranging product seminars to educate distributors as to product lines and new product introductions as well as by obtaining marketing feedback from distributors as to the success of particular product introductions and market strategies. This careful branding strategy has been demonstrably successful. Interceramic has for several years conducted an annual survey among female heads of household in Mexico, which has demonstrated a marked recognition of Company products. In the 2003 survey, and consistent with recent years, approximately 52 percent of respondents mentioned Interceramic when asked to recite unaided brands of ceramic tile—almost four times the mentions of any other tile producer, and 46 percent of all respondents mentioned the “Interceramic” brand first.

In the United States, marketing and advertising are effected through trade shows and magazines, showroom displays, catalogues and point of sale displays. Inasmuch as the United States market is dominated by company-controlled outlets of the major domestic manufacturers and large distributors of floor coverings generally, Interceramic USA has adopted an allied products marketing strategy, in which it promotes sales of a variety of Italian, Spanish and Mexican tile in distinctive styles and colors in order to increase demand for products similar to those produced by the Company. By holding itself out as a specialty distributor these types of products, Interceramic USA aims to create additional demand for tile of Company manufacture. Interceramic USA also services its distributors’ needs by ordering directly from Italian and Spanish producers and arranging for payment, customs clearance and freight forwarding. Interceramic USA also engages in efforts to educate its distributors and their employees,

conducting seminars in sales skills, the ceramic tile industry in general and the Interceramic product lines in particular, as well as holding ceramic tile installation and other clinics designed to make the salesmen more effective advocates of the Company's products.

### **Proprietary Tradenames and Trademarks**

The Company's products are marketed in Mexico and the United States solely under the "Interceramic" trade name, other than the RISA production sold to Dal-Tile for sale under various Dal-Tile product names. Trademarked names are used in the sale of a wide range of the Company's products, including ceramic floor tile, ceramic wall tile, construction materials, glues, epoxy, adhesives, grouts, additives, sealants and cleansers. In Mexico, the Company's use of the slogan "Simply, the Best" in connection with its glazed ceramic tile was important in gaining distributor and customer acceptance and continues today to be the byword of the organization. In the United States, the Company makes extensive use of its slogans "The Best the World has to Offer" and "Imagine the Possibilities." With respect to the American Standard and Kohler products marketed through the franchises in Mexico, the Company has obtained the right to use the related tradenames and trademarks. The Company has the license to use or owns all the trademarks and tradenames necessary for its business.

### **The Dal-Tile Agreement**

In October 1990, the Company and RISA, at that time the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, entered into a Master Investment and Cooperation Agreement (the "Dal-Tile Agreement") with Armstrong and one of its affiliates, pursuant to which Armstrong acquired 49.99 percent of RISA's capital stock in consideration for certain payments by Armstrong. In connection with the acquisition, the Company transferred certain real property and equipment, which together constitute the RISA Plant, to RISA. In a transaction which was consummated in December of 1995, Dal-Tile acquired Armstrong's American Olean ceramic tile business and assumed all of Armstrong's rights and obligations under this relationship.

Pursuant to a supply arrangement, RISA is obligated to make available up to 50 percent of the ceramic tile production of the RISA Plant to Dal-Tile, all in first-class product, in accordance with an annual production program to be established by the parties and reviewed periodically. Dal-Tile has the option to cause production pursuant to this arrangement to be under private label and to request new product offerings. Product pricing is generally based on RISA's standard export market quotes and terms of sale. The following table summarizes historical RISA sales to Dal-Tile:

### **RISA Sales to Dal-Tile**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Million Square Feet</b>	<b>Percentage of Production</b>
1996	25.4	39.2
1997	21.5	33.2
1998	24.2	37.2
1999	14.7	23.3

2000	13.8	20.9
2001	16.0	22.9
2002	24.3	37.1
2003	19.2	25.4

The increasing share of RISA Plant production purchased by Dal-Tile during the 1996 to 1998 time frame adversely impacted the Company's ability to supply RISA product to its franchise stores in Mexico and for resale in the United States by Interceramic USA. Further, Dal-Tile has emphasized lower end products in its RISA orders, which has not only resulted in generally lower margins from RISA production but has also run counter to the Company's efforts to concentrate production on high-end products. If Dal-Tile were to increase its purchases of RISA production to levels approaching its contractual entitlement, the Company's efforts to increase market share in both Mexico and the United States could be impaired.

In connection with the Dal-Tile Agreement, certain additional agreements were entered into relating to, among other things (i) supplies of clay at favored prices to RISA to satisfy its production needs; (ii) furnishing the Company's production know-how and technical, production and planning support to RISA and licensing the Company's trademarks and tradenames to RISA; and (iii) certain events pursuant to which Dal-Tile or the Company, as the case may be, would have certain rights of first refusal, preemptive rights and call rights in certain circumstances including upon certain changes in or dispositions of Dal-Tile's or the Company's ownership of the capital stock of RISA. The Company terminated the clay supply agreement during 1998, although it continues to supply clay to RISA at market rates.

### **The Custom Agreement**

In December of 1993, the Company entered into a series of agreements with Custom (collectively, the "Custom Agreement"), pursuant to which (i) Custom has acquired 49 percent of ABISA's capital stock; (ii) the Company agreed to provide certain administrative services to ABISA and to share the cost, by proportional reimbursement from ABISA, of these and other common expenses; (iii) Custom gave ABISA the exclusive right to distribute Custom products in Mexico; (iv) Custom agreed not to compete with ABISA in Mexico; and (v) Custom agreed to furnish certain materials to ABISA at cost and to provide certain technical assistance.

The Company entered into the Custom Agreement primarily to acquire the technical assistance necessary to enable it to produce quality grouts and adhesives in greater quantities, and the relationship with Custom has proven very beneficial to the Company.

### **The Kohler Agreement**

In addition to addressing the terms of its investment in Interceramic, the Kohler Agreement sets forth the basic terms of the distribution relationship pursuant to which Interceramic distributes Kohler products, primarily including sinks, bathtubs, sanitary fixtures, faucets and related accessories, in Mexico. These products are directed almost exclusively at the high-end of the market. Prior to entering into the Kohler Agreement, Interceramic had terminated its existing agreement with American Standard—however, a new agreement was entered into with American Standard in October of 2000 under which Interceramic is selling mid- and low-end products in Mexico. *See* "—The American Standard Agreement" below. Under the terms of the Kohler Agreement, Interceramic and Kohler annually set sales objectives for Kohler products in Mexico which are subject to monthly review and adjustment. The distribution relationship is subject to termination by either Kohler or Interceramic for any reason upon certain prior notice.

Kohler has also entered into agreements with the Controlling Group providing, among other things (i) an agreement by the Controlling Group that they would use their best efforts to cause a Kohler representative to be appointed to the Board; (ii) Kohler with a right of first refusal to purchase Interceramic stock owned by the Controlling Group in the event of an unsolicited offer to acquire from the Controlling Group members five percent or more of the equity securities of Interceramic; (iii) Kohler with a “tag-along” right if the members of the Controlling Group were to enter into any transaction which would result in the transfer of 50 percent or more of the Common Units to a third party; and (iv) an agreement by the Almeida Family to buy back from Kohler the Common Units purchased by it in the offering in the event that Interceramic terminates the distribution agreement contained in the Kohler Agreement.

The Company entered into the Kohler Agreement for a number of reasons in addition to facilitating the investment of Kohler in Interceramic’s equity securities. The Company believes that Kohler products represent the best that the industry has to offer, and the Company’s affiliation with Kohler fits the Company’s image as an industry leader in its own right. Further, the ability to distribute these first-class products in the Company’s franchise stores nationwide enhances the options available to the consumer in Mexico, who now has a wide range of sanitary fixtures and plumbing products to choose from at all points on the market in the Interceramic franchise store.

### **The American Standard Agreement**

The Company has distributed American Standard products throughout Mexico for a number of years under an exclusive distribution agreement. Prior to entering into the Kohler Agreement in late 2000, the Company terminated this relationship, and entered into a new agreement with American Standard. Under the American Standard Agreement, American Standard granted the Company the right to distribute through its network of franchise distributors certain American Standard products throughout Mexico. These products, aimed at the middle and lower end markets, are made by American Standard in Mexico and carry the “Interceramic” brand name. The Company granted American Standard the right to use the Interceramic name for the limited purpose of sales of these products to the Company and its franchisees in Mexico. Under the American Standard Agreement, certain biannual sales targets are established for the various products. The American Standard Agreement has a stated five year term, but it subject to certain early termination provisions, including 90 days prior notice at the option of either party.

The Company entered into the American Standard Agreement for several reasons, including (i) the American Standard products covered by the agreement, manufactured in Mexico, are priced competitively; (ii) the products fit the mid- and low-end niche of the market which the Kohler products generally do not; (iii) American Standard agreed to manufacture the products using the Interceramic trade name; and (iv) the Company’s belief that American Standard would be a reliable source of uniform products that can be effectively marketed in conjunction with the Company’s own products.

### ***C. Organizational Structure***

Interceramic, the reporting company, is not only an operating company, but a holding company as well. The following chart describes Interceramic’s subsidiaries:

<b>Name of Company</b>	<b>Jurisdiction of Organization</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Interceramic Holding Company, Inc.*	Nevada	100.00%
Adhesivos y Boquillas	Mexico	51.00%

Interceramic, S. de R.L. de C.V.

Interceramic Trading Company	Texas	100.00%
Recubrimientos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	50.01%
Materiales en Proceso, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	100.00%
Distribución Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	100.00%
Intercabados del Occidente, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	100.00%
Interceramic de Occidente, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	100.00%
Operadora Interceramic de México, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	100.00%
Holding de Franquicias Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	100.00%
Servicios Administrativos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	100.00%
Intercabados del Centro, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	100.00%

\* Interceramic Holding Company, Inc. (“Interceramic Holding”) was organized in 2003 for the sole purpose of owning all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Interceramic USA.

#### ***D. Property, Plants and Equipment***

##### **Properties**

The Company operates four glazed ceramic floor and wall tile plants and two grout and adhesive production facilities. All of the Company’s production facilities are operating at 100 percent capacity, and have been for some time. See “–B. Business Overview–Production Capacity” above. The Company also leases a number of sales locations in Mexico and the United States, as well as several warehouse locations. All of the Company’s properties in the United States are leased, while in Mexico the Company owns many of its facilities and leases a number of others.

The following table describes the material properties currently owned or leased by the Company:

##### **Schedule of Properties**

Property	Size (1)	Location	Usage
ICSA Plant	960,196	Chihuahua, Mexico	Ceramic Floor Tile Manufacture; R&D Center; Warehouses
RISA Plant	2,567,895	Chihuahua, Mexico	Ceramic Floor Tile Manufacture
First ABISA Plant and Central Warehouse	1,389,826	Chihuahua, Mexico	Manufacture of Grouts and Adhesives
Second ABISA Plant	292,027	Huichapan, Mexico	Manufacture of Grouts and Adhesives
Garland Plant	250,000	Garland, Texas	Ceramic Wall Tile Manufacture
Garland Warehouse	270,000	Garland, Texas	Product Warehouse
Cerro Grande Mines	71,718,863	Chihuahua, Mexico	Clay Mines
Azulejos Plant	2,533,290	Chihuahua, Mexico	Ceramic Wall Tile Manufacture

(1) Underlying real estate, expressed in square feet.

The ICSA Plant, located on several combined tracts of land located in the Mexican city of Chihuahua and owned by Interceramic, was subject at December 31, 2003 to a first mortgage lien in favor of *Scotiabank Inverlat, S.A.*, as Administrative Agent (“Scotia”), securing at December 31, 2003 a principal loan balance of US \$85.0 million under the secured term loan facility (the “Term Loan”) that the Company consummated in July 2002. See “Item 5—Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—B. Liquidity and Capital Resources” below.

The RISA Plant is located on a tract of land, also in Chihuahua, of 2,567,895 square feet, or 59 acres, and is owned by RISA. The real estate is divided into two parcels, “Lot A” of 743,477 square feet is subject to a first mortgage lien in favor of *Banco Nacional de México, S.A.* (“Banamex”) securing a principal loan balance of US \$6.0 million at December 31, 2003. The current annual production capacity of the RISA Plant is 66.6 million square feet of glazed ceramic floor tile.

The Azulejos Plant, located adjacent to the RISA Plant, contains 2,533,290 square feet, or approximately 58 acres, and is owned by Interceramic, subject to a first mortgage lien in favor of Scotia securing the Term Loan that is also secured by the ICSA Plant, as discussed above. Production capacity of the Azulejos Plant is 39.6 million square feet of glazed ceramic wall tile annually.

The First ABISA Plant and the Company’s central warehouse facility are located adjacent to the ICSA Plant on a parcel of land containing 1,389,826 square feet, which is owned by the Company, and as of December 31, 2003 is subject to a first mortgage lien in favor of Scotia securing the Term Loan that is also secured by the ICSA Plant and the Azulejos Plant, as discussed above. The ABISA Plant is used for the manufacture of grouts, mortars and adhesives for ceramic tile installation.

The Second ABISA Plant is located in the central Mexican town of Huichapan, Hidalgo. The Second ABISA Plant is also used for the manufacture of grouts, mortars and adhesives for ceramic tile installation.

Most of the clay mines owned and operated by the Company are located near the community of Aldama, Chihuahua. Other Company owned mines are located near the Chihuahua communities of Guerrero and Jimenez. At December 31, 2003 the mining properties were subject a mortgage lien in favor of Scotia to secure the Term Loan. These properties cover an aggregate of 75,593,903 square feet, or 1,735 acres.

Interceramic USA has pursued a strategy of leasing all of its manufacturing, warehousing and sales locations. Accordingly, Interceramic USA leases its properties pursuant more than 20 different real estate leases. Most of the properties occupied by Interceramic USA are commercial warehouse and retail facilities leased for terms generally not in excess of ten years. Although Interceramic USA owns substantially all of its production machinery and operating assets, the land and building constituting the Garland Plant is being leased by Interceramic USA from *Catellus Development Corporation* (“Catellus”) under a build to suit industrial lease (the “Garland Lease”) entered into in 1993. The Garland Lease has an initial term of 15 years, with extensions at the option of Interceramic USA for up to 20 additional years. Annual base rent under the Garland Lease currently is approximately US \$1.0 million, and increases by approximately US \$60,000 in the 14<sup>th</sup> years of the initial term. Adjacent to the Garland Plant is a 270,000 square foot facility that Interceramic uses for warehousing and some corporate functions. This property is also leased by Interceramic USA from Catellus under a build to suit lease (the “Garland Warehouse Lease”). In connection with the execution of the Garland Warehouse Lease, the term of the Garland Lease was extended by agreement to coincide with the 15 year initial term of the Garland Warehouse Lease. The Garland Warehouse Lease is substantially similar to the Garland Lease, providing for rental payments based upon a yield factor applied against the cost of the facility. Annual base rent under the Garland Warehouse Lease is currently US \$896,472 and increases to US \$941,460 in 2008.

The annual aggregate lease payments made by Interceramic USA during 2003 for its properties in the United States was US \$5.0 million.

## **Environmental Issues**

The Company’s operations in Mexico are subject to various federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding a number of environmental concerns, including control of non-toxic materials and residues, emission of toxic gases and particles, usage and discharge of water, emissions of dust and land usage. The Company has obtained and maintained all permits required by law and has conducted its operations in conformity with applicable laws and regulations.

The Garland Plant operates under a permit from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission which regulates the content and quantity of emissions from the facility under Texas law as well as by designation from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The permit was obtained in the ordinary course in connection with the development of the facility. Emissions are subject to periodic monitoring and spot checking, and there have been no compliance problems since commencement of operations. To the Company’s knowledge, there are no environmental issues effecting the use or enjoyment of any of its other leased properties and assets in the United States.

## **Expansion Plans**

After a number of years with no significant capacity expansion, in March of 2004 Interceramic completed an offering of equity securities that provided it with substantially all the funds necessary to construct a new manufacturing facility. Groundbreaking on the New Plant, also to be located in the city of Chihuahua, occurred in May of 2004 and the facility is expected to be in production during the second quarter of 2005. The cost of the New Plant is estimated to be approximately US \$25.0 million and, upon completion, the facility will increase the



Company's production capacity by about 25 percent.

## **ITEM 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects**

### ***A. Operating Results***

#### **Overview**

The Company is engaged in the manufacture and distribution of high-quality glazed ceramic floor and wall tile for residential and commercial uses, primarily in Mexico and the United States. In addition, the Company imports ceramic floor and wall tile, primarily from Italian and Spanish producers, for distribution and sale in the United States and Mexico. In Mexico, the Company manufactures and sells grouts and adhesives and sells bathroom and kitchen fixtures to complement its ceramic tile offerings.

After several years of its production facilities running at full capacity, the Company has been pursuing a basic strategy in both Mexico and the United States to increase its gross margins by focusing its product mix on the higher end segments of the market and gaining market share in these segments. The Company's strategy in Mexico is to de-emphasize the distinctions between commodity and other tile products, and instead focus on a broad "Interceramic" product mix at its franchise stores to meet consumer demand for all glazed ceramic tile products. The Company's fundamental strategy in the United States is to increase market share in a climate of significant growth in ceramic tile consumption in the United States.

Over the past couple of years, the Company has purchased ceramic tile products from third party producers under "private label" programs in order to meet consumer demand for all kinds of tile products. Most of these third party purchases are of lower to middle end products, enabling the Company to concentrate its own production capacity on higher margin, high-quality products. The Company has started construction on a new tile production facility located in Chihuahua, Mexico, which is expected to be in production in the second quarter of 2005. This new facility will increase the Company's total capacity by almost 25 percent.

The Company's operations in 2003 were influenced by the general global economic down turn, lower pricing pressures and a major slip in the value of the Peso against the European and United States currencies—the latter resulting in a 20 percent devaluation from March 2002 to March 2003. In response, the Company focused its efforts on maintaining product sales levels and pricing, and improving operating efficiencies. Results of these efforts were generally positive, with the year ending up more or less on par with results in 2002. Consolidated sales of Ps 3,424.9 million for the year represented an increase of 4.82 percent compared to 2002 sales of Ps 3,267.4 million. Sales in Mexico for 2003 were up 4.27 percent from 2002 at Ps 1,920.5 million. International Sales for 2003 were Ps 1,504.4 million, up 5.54 percent from Ps 1,425.4 million in 2002. Slightly higher cost of sales and higher selling and administrative expenses depressed operating income in 2003, decreasing by 26.08 percent to Ps 229.0 million in 2003 compared to Ps 309.8 million in 2003.

#### **Certain Financial Information**

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the Financial Statements. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Mexican GAAP, which differs in certain significant respects from US GAAP. Note 13 to the Financial Statements provides a description of the principal differences between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP as they relate to the Company, and a reconciliation to US GAAP of net income and total shareholders' equity. In certain parts of the following discussion, reference is made to Peso amounts translated into "nominal" Dollars. Unlike the convenience translations contained in the Financial Statements, which convert Peso amounts into Dollars based upon the Interbank Rate at December 31, 2003, translations into nominal Dollars are made at the end of each month during the period, using the Interbank Rate at the end of each applicable month, and adding the aggregate of such translated amounts for the entire period. Translations of results for prior periods in nominal

Dollars are not adjusted for subsequent changes in the exchange rate.

### **US GAAP Reconciliation.**

During the years ended December 31, 2003 and 2002, the Company had net income under US GAAP of Ps 209.6 million and Ps 63.8 million, respectively. Compared to Mexican GAAP, net income under US GAAP was 550.6 percent greater in 2003 but 41.80 percent lower in 2002.

There are several differences between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP that significantly affect the Company's net income and stockholders' equity, including in particular how the carrying value of plant, property and equipment is restated to reflect effects of inflation. Under Mexican GAAP, the Company restates its fixed assets of non-Mexican origin based on the rate of inflation in the country of origin and the prevailing exchange rate at the balance sheet date, while under US GAAP, the Company uses the Mexican inflation rate. The primary differences between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP that affected net income in 2003 and 2002 relate to interest on assets under construction, and deferred income tax and employee profit sharing. The differences in stockholders' equity under Mexican GAAP and US GAAP reflect these differences as well. For a discussion of the principal differences between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP, see Note 13 to the Financial Statements.

### **Use of Estimates in Certain Accounting Policies.**

In preparing the Financial Statements, the Company makes estimates concerning a variety of matters. Some of these matters are highly uncertain, and the formation of estimates involves the Company's best judgments based on the information available to the Company. In the discussion below, the Company has identified its estimation of the useful lives of property, plan and equipment as the primary matter for which the financial presentation would be materially affected if either (i) different estimates could reasonably have been used or (ii) in the future, changes might be made to the estimates in response to circumstances about uncertain matters that are reasonably likely to occur. There are many other areas in which the Company uses estimated about uncertain matters, but the reasonably likely effect of a change of the use of different estimates is not material to the financial presentation.

The Company estimates the useful lives of particular classes of property, plant and equipment in order to determine the amount of depreciation expense to be recorded in each period. Depreciation expenses is a significant element of cost and expenses in the Financial Statements. *See* Note 4 and Note 13 to the Financial Statements.

The estimates are based on historical experience with similar assets, anticipated technological changes and other factors. The Company reviews estimated useful lives each year to determine whether they should be changed, and at times the estimated useful lives have been changed for particular classes of assets. The estimated useful life of an asset class may be changed in response to technological changes, changes in market or other developments. The shortening of the useful life of an asset results in increased depreciation expense.

### **Allowance for Doubtful Accounts**

The Company determines its allowance for doubtful accounts based on an evaluation of the aging of its receivables portfolio and on a qualitative analysis as well. The amount of the allowance contemplates the Company's historical loss rate on receivables and the economic environment on which it operates. In Mexico part of the Company's sales are realized to the Company's franchise distribution network where collection is very secure, and the other part of sales realized through Company-owned stores are mainly realized in cash not giving rise to doubtful accounts.

In the United States operations allowance for doubtful accounts is based on a number of factors, including an historical loss rate, experience, review of specific account balances and business and economic conditions.

### **Reserve for Obsolete and Slow-Moving Inventories**

This reserve is determined based on an evaluation of the Company's inventories, an historical loss rate and a number of qualitative factors such as aging, discontinued lines of products and slow moving inventories.

### **Inflation**

Although the annual rate of inflation in Mexico has trended strongly downwards since 1996, Mexico experienced relatively high inflation in some of the periods covered by the Financial Statements. The annual rates of inflation in Mexico, as measured by changes in the NCPI were 4.40 percent, 5.70 percent and 3.97 percent for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

The IMCP has issued Bulletin B-10, "Recognition of the Effects of Inflation on Financial Information," and Bulletin B-12, "Statement of Changes in Financial Position," which outline the inflation accounting methodology that is mandatory for all Mexican companies reporting under Mexican GAAP. Bulletin B-10 requires that all financial information be presented in constant Pesos (having the same purchasing power for each period indicated taking into account inflation) as of the date of the most recent balance sheet. The presentation of financial information in constant Pesos is intended to recognize certain effects of inflation on the financial statements and to permit comparisons between comparable periods in comparable monetary units. The result of this adjustment is that growth rates between periods are stated in "real" terms, eliminating the general effects of inflation. Except where otherwise indicated, financial data for all periods in the Financial Statements and throughout this Annual Report have been restated in constant Pesos with purchasing power as of December 31, 2003. References in this Annual Report to "real" amounts are to inflation-adjusted numbers and to "nominal" amounts are to unadjusted numbers. Unless otherwise specified, all growth rates in the following discussion are stated in real terms.

In accordance with Bulletin B-10, the Company is required to report, as a gain or loss on its net monetary position, the effects of inflation on its monetary assets and liabilities. This net amount, which is reflected in the statement of income within the "Comprehensive Financing Cost" under the caption "Gain on Net Monetary Position," reflects the gain or loss arising from holding a net liability or asset monetary position in an inflationary period because over time a monetary liability can be settled for units of less purchasing power whereas a monetary asset decreases in value in real terms. The Company's operations continually generate monetary assets (primarily in the form of cash, cash equivalents and accounts receivable) while the Company's trade and accounts payable and borrowings result in monetary liabilities.

Bulletin B-10 also requires that the Company restate nonmonetary liabilities using the NCPI and restate the components of shareholders' equity using the changes in the NCPI. The fifth amendment to Bulletin B-10 no longer permits restatement of machinery and equipment based on appraisals. Accordingly, the Company's imported machinery and equipment are restated on the basis of the devaluation of the Peso against the currency of origin and applying a factor for inflation in the applicable foreign country. Domestic machinery and equipment are restated based only on the NCPI.

Because the Company has significant operations in the United States, for the fiscal year which commenced January 1, 1998 it was required to comply with IMCP Bulletin B-15, "Transactions in Foreign Currency and Translation of Financial Statements of Foreign Operations." Bulletin B-15 requires the application of a factor to the Financial Statements which reflects a weighing of the Company's operations in the United States and Mexico, and applying to each the rate of inflation in the country to which the operations are attributable as well as the currency exchange rate of the currency applicable to the operations. In this respect, Bulletin B-15 is inconsistent with the requirements of Rule 3-20(e) of Regulation S-X promulgated by the SEC with respect to filings under the 1933 Act and the 1934 Act, and is treated as a reconciling item in the Financial Statements. *See* Note 1(a) and Note 13 to the Financial Statements. As applied to the Company, the effect of Bulletin B-15 on the Financial Statements causes certain results for prior years to be different in certain respects than reported previously.

## Results of Operations

The following table sets forth selected results of operations data for the Company for each of the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, as a percentage of net sales.

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2001	2002	2003
Net sales	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Cost of sales	(62.80)	(63.02)	(65.30)
Gross profit	37.20	36.98	34.70
Selling and administrative expenses:			
Selling expenses	(16.47)	(18.36)	(19.15)
General and administrative expenses	(8.47)	(8.45)	(8.24)
Research and development	(0.87)	(0.70)	(0.62)
	(25.81)	(27.51)	(28.01)
Operating income	11.39	9.48	6.69
Comprehensive cost of financing:			
Interest income	0.21	0.24	0.24
Interest expense	(4.67)	(3.51)	(2.33)
Exchange (loss) gain	1.66	(3.54)	(2.67)
Net monetary effect	1.96	1.66	1.49
	(0.84)	(5.15)	(3.27)
Other expenses, net	(1.64)	(0.41)	(0.25)
Equity in results of associated companies	0.04	(0.01)	0.01
Income before income tax and employee profit sharing	8.91	3.91	3.18
Income and asset tax	(0.57)	(0.64)	(0.62)

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Deferred income taxes	(1.00)	0.28	(0.75)
Employee profit sharing	(0.12)	(0.12)	0.00
Consolidated net income	7.22	3.43	1.82
Minority net income	0.79	0.60	0.88
Majority net income	6.43	2.83	0.94

**Net Sales**

*2003 v. 2002*

Net sales increased 4.82 percent during 2003 to Ps 3,424.9 million from Ps 3,267.4 million in 2002. Ceramic tile sales represented 80.55 percent of net sales in 2003 compared to 81.37 percent in 2002. Measured in nominal Dollars, net sales increased by 2.14 percent to US \$306.4 million from US \$300.0 million in 2002. Ceramic tile sales by volume of product sold increased in 2003 as well, to 306.4 million square feet from 285.8 million square feet in 2002, an increase of 7.19 percent. The increase in both value and volume of sales is a result of the continued efforts of the Company to refurbish and modernize its distribution network in both Mexico and the United States, offering the consumer a wide range and variety of products, focused to meet all demands.

The Company's volume sold in Mexico during 2003 increased by 17.54 percent over 2002, to 198.2 million square feet from 168.6 million square feet. The net average selling price for the Company's ceramic tile products in Mexico for 2003 decreased by 7.79 percent to Ps 7.71 per square foot from the Ps 8.37 per square foot achieved in 2002. Much of the decrease was from the introduction by the Company of lower priced, imported products into the franchise network.

The Company experienced an increase in its average selling prices in the International markets by 14.03 percent in 2003 over 2002, and International Sales of Ps 1,504.4 million for 2003 registered an increase of 5.54 percent over International Sales of Ps 1,425.4 million in 2002. Volume sold in these markets decreased by 7.70 percent to 108.1 million square feet in 2003 from 117.2 million square feet in 2002. In these markets, the Company focused significant attention on the introduction of higher priced, natural stone type products, sacrificing some of the volume of middle- to low-end products in the process and obtaining a better product mix.

*2002 v. 2001*

Net sales increased 2.94 percent during 2002 to Ps 3,267.4 million from Ps 3,174.2 million in 2001. Ceramic tile sales represented 81.37 percent of net sales in 2002 compared to 84.35 percent in 2001. Measured in nominal Dollars, net sales increased by 4.15 percent to US \$300.0 million from US \$288.0 million in 2001. Ceramic tile sales by volume of product sold increased in 2002, to 285.8 million square feet from 282.9 square feet in 2001, an increase of 1.03 percent.

The Company's volume sold in Mexico during 2002 decreased by 4.58 percent over 2001, to 168.6 million square feet from 176.7 million square feet. Continuing a trend linked to the events of September 11, 2001, the net average selling price for the Company's ceramic tile products in Mexico for 2002 decreased by 1.69 percent to Ps 8.62 per square foot from the Ps 8.77 per square foot achieved in 2001.

While the Company experienced a decrease in its average selling prices in the International markets by 14.59 percent in 2002 over 2001, International Sales of Ps 1,425.4 million for 2002 registered an important increase of 10.15 percent over International Sales of Ps 1,294.1 million in 2001. Volume sold in this markets increased by 10.38 percent to 117.2 million square feet in 2002 from 106.1 million square feet in 2001.

## **Cost of Sales**

The Company's cost of sales consists of production costs of products manufactured by the Company and, to a much lesser extent, costs of products, principally imported ceramic and other types of floor tile, which the Company buys for resale. Production costs consist mainly of costs of raw materials, labor, depreciation, energy and other overhead expenses, the proportionate amounts of which have been fairly consistent in both Mexico and the United States. During 2003, 27.75 percent of the production costs in Mexico was for raw materials, 20.59 percent for labor, 8.08 percent for depreciation, 15.69 percent for energy and the remaining 27.89 percent attributable to other overhead expenses such as maintenance, spare parts and water usage fees. In the United States, the Company's production costs have been proportionately somewhat different from those in Mexico. In 2003, the production costs of the Garland Plant consisted of 23.91 percent for raw materials, 32.23 percent for labor, 14.47 percent for depreciation, 11.53 percent for energy and the remaining 17.86 percent for other overhead expenses.

### *2003 v. 2002*

Cost of sales increased by 8.62 percent during 2003 to Ps 2,236.4 million from Ps 2,059.0 million in 2002 resulting from the combined effect of the Company's increased sales and greater cost of products sold, the latter mainly attributable to generally unfavorable exchange rates impacting the cost of the Company's private-label outsourcing program. As a percentage of sales, cost of sales represented 65.30 percent in 2003 as compared to 63.02 percent in 2002, an increase of 2.28 percentage points. As was true in 2002, the difference is also attributable to a slightly poorer mix of products sold.

### *2002 v. 2001*

Cost of sales increased by 3.29 percent during 2002 to Ps 2,059.0 million from Ps 1,993.3 million in 2001, and represented 63.02 percent of sales in 2002 as compared to 62.80 percent in 2001. As a percentage of sales, cost of sales represented 63.02 percent in 2002 as opposed to 62.80 percent in 2001, a decrease of 0.22 percentage points, caused mainly by a slightly poorer mix of products sold.

## **Gross Profit**

### *2003 v. 2002*

Gross profit for 2003 was Ps 1,188.6 million as compared to Ps 1,208.4 million in 2002, a decrease of 1.64 percent, mainly due to a greater increase in the cost of sales as compared to the increase in sales registered. The Company's gross margin for the year decreased to 34.70 percent from a gross margin of 36.98 percent in 2002, a 2.28 percentage point reduction. This arose primarily from a slightly poorer mix of products sold as well as higher costs of products.

### *2002 v. 2001*

Gross profit for 2002 was Ps 1,208.4 million as compared to Ps 1,180.8 million in 2001, an increase of 2.33 percent. The Company's gross margin for the year decreased however, to 36.98 percent from a gross margin of 37.20 percent in 2001, a 0.22 point reduction. While gross profit increased, a greater increase in the cost of sales compared to the increase in sales for the period led to the decrease in gross margin.

## **Operating Expenses**

### *2003 v. 2002*

Operating expenses during 2003 increased by 6.77 percent over operating expenses in 2002, to Ps 959.4 million from Ps 898.6 million. As a percentage of sales, operating expenses represented 28.01 percent in 2003 compared to 27.50 percent in 2002, an increase of 0.51 percentage points. As was the case in 2002, most of the increase is attributable to the expansion of its Company-owned stores in Mexico and the United States and preparations for the movement of greater amounts of product through its distribution network, which included among other things the implementation of the new Oracle supply chain manager software and the installation of strategic warehouses for the more efficient distribution of products.

*2002 v. 2001*

Operating expenses during 2002 increased by 9.68 percent over operating expenses in 2001, to Ps 898.6 million from Ps 819.3 million. As a percentage of sales, operating expenses represented 27.50 percent in 2002 compared to 25.81 percent in 2001, an increase of 1.69 percentage points. Most of the increase is attributable to heavy investment in the expansion of its Company-owned stores in Mexico and the United States and preparations for the movement of greater amounts of product through its distribution network as the “private label” program was initiated late in 2002.

**Comprehensive Financing Cost**

Comprehensive financing cost can significantly impact the financial statements of a company in periods of high inflation. Income statements for companies reporting under Mexican GAAP are required to present all financial effects of operating and financing the business under inflationary conditions. For presentation purposes, all effects relating to financing are listed under comprehensive financing cost and include (i) interest earned on cash and temporary investments and interest paid on borrowed funds; (ii) foreign exchange gains or losses associated with monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies; and (iii) losses or gains resulting from holding monetary assets exposed to inflation net of gains or losses resulting from having monetary liabilities adjusted for inflation. To the extent a company has monetary liabilities that exceed its monetary assets in a period of inflation, the company will generate a gain from monetary position, and to the extent a company has monetary assets that exceed its monetary liabilities in a period of inflation, the company will generate a loss from monetary position. The Company’s foreign exchange position is affected by its assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. The Company records a foreign exchange gain or loss if the exchange rate of the Peso to the currency in which the monetary assets or liabilities are denominated fluctuates.

*2003 v. 2002*

Comprehensive financing cost for 2003 was Ps 111.9 million compared to Ps 168.3 million in 2002. This decrease was mainly due to a reduced foreign exchange loss of Ps 91.5 million in 2003 compared to losses of Ps 115.8 million in 2002, as the Peso depreciated against the Dollar less over the course of the year than in 2002. The monetary gain for 2003 was Ps 51.2 million compared to a monetary gain of Ps 54.3 million in 2002. In 2003 the Company reaped the benefit of an entire year of interest savings as a result of the 2002 Term Loan financing, and interest expense decreased by 30.44 percent over 2002. Interest income for 2003 also increased over 2002, by 3.76 percent.

*2002 v. 2001*

Comprehensive financing cost for 2002 was Ps 168.3 million compared to Ps 26.7 million in 2001. This increase was mainly due to a foreign exchange loss of Ps 115.8 million resulting from exchange rate changes during the year, as during 2001 the Company recognized foreign exchange gain of Ps 52.8 million. Monetary gain for 2002 was Ps 54.3 million compared to monetary gain of Ps 62.3 million in 2001. The replacement of the Company’s outstanding, relatively high-rate Eurobonds during 2002 with the significantly lower cost Term Loan resulted in a decrease in interest expense by 22.55 percent over 2001. Interest income for 2002 also increased over 2001, by 22.26 percent.

## **Other Income or Expenses**

### *2003 v. 2002*

Other expenses in 2003 further decreased over the year, down to Ps 8.2 million compared to the Ps 13.3 million recorded in 2002.

### *2002 v. 2001*

Other expenses in 2002 were down significantly to Ps 13.3 million compared to Ps 52.1 million recorded in 2001, in which year the Company wrote-off the value of certain obsolete machinery and equipment.

## **Provision for Income and Asset Tax and Deferred Taxes**

Effective January 1, 1999, the corporate income tax rate in Mexico was increased from 34 percent to 35 percent. However, corporate taxpayers have the option of deferring a portion of the tax so that the tax payable will represent 30 percent of taxable income (32 percent for 1999). Starting with the 2003 tax year, there will be a one percentage point reduction in the income tax rate per year until the rate reaches 32 percent. The earnings on which there is a deferral of taxes must be identified and maintained on the Company's books in a "net reinvested tax profit" account ("CUFINRE"). This is to ensure that the earnings on which the taxpayer has chosen to defer taxes remains clearly identified for later periods. The annual asset tax rate of 1.8 percent is payable individually by Interceramic and each of its Mexican subsidiaries. The asset tax is levied on the average value of most assets, net of certain liabilities.

### *2003 v. 2002*

In 2003 the Company's provision for income and asset tax and deferred income taxes was Ps 46.8 million, an increase of 295.93 percent over the provision of Ps 11.8 million recorded in 2002. Provision for income and asset tax and deferred income taxes represented 42.95 percent of income before the provisions and employee profit sharing in 2003 compared to 9.22 percent in 2002. This increase in the provision for income and asset tax and deferred income tax is mainly due to an increase in the valuation allowance for deductible expenses as well as a decrease in the effect of reductions in the Mexican income tax rate applicable to the Company.

### *2002 v. 2001*

In 2002 the Company's provision for income and asset tax and deferred taxes was Ps 11.8 million, a decrease of 76.35 percent over the provision of Ps 50.0 million recorded in 2001. Provision for current income and asset tax and deferred taxes represented 9.22 percent of income before these provisions and employee profit sharing in 2002 compared to 17.68 percent in 2001.

## **Employee Profit Sharing**

The Company is required under Mexican law to pay to employees, in addition to their agreed compensation and benefits, profit sharing in an amount equal to ten percent of pretax income, determined for statutory employee profit sharing purposes, on an unconsolidated basis. These amounts are payable on a per-company basis, so that subsidiaries calculate and pay the accrued liability separately. In accordance with Bulletin D-4, deferred employee profit sharing should be recognized only on temporary differences determined in the reconciliation of current year net income for financial and tax reporting purposes, provided there is no indication that the related liability or asset will not be realized in the future.

The Company's statutory employee profit-sharing obligation, on a consolidated basis, has historically been lower than ten percent of pretax income as reported on the Company's financial statements in accordance with



Mexican GAAP. In 2002 and 2001, this provision was Ps. 3.8 million and Ps 3.7 million, respectively. A higher level of deductible expenses for 2003 resulted in a loss for purposes of computing employee profit sharing, resulting in no employee profit sharing liability for the year.

### **Minority Net Income**

This account relates to the interest of Dal-Tile in RISA and Custom's interest in ABISA.

*2003 v. 2002*

Minority net income in 2003 was Ps 30.0 million, compared to Ps 19.7 million in 2002. For 2003 minority net income represented 0.88 percent of sales while in 2002 it was 0.60 percent of sales. The difference was due to increased net income and operating margins for the year at both RISA and ABISA.

*2002 v. 2001*

Minority net income posted in 2002 was Ps 19.7 million, compared to Ps 24.9 million in 2001. For 2002 minority net income represented 0.60 percent of sales while in 2001 it was 0.79 percent of sales.

### **Majority Net Income**

This account consists of consolidated net income, less the portion attributable to Dal-Tile's ownership interest in RISA and that of Custom in ABISA.

*2003 v. 2002*

Majority net income for 2003 decreased significantly by 65.36 percent to Ps 32.2 million from a majority net income of Ps 93.0 million in 2002. For 2003 majority net income represented 0.94 percent of sales compared to 2.85 percent in 2002. The increased provision for income and asset tax registered during the year adversely impacted the net income of the Company, resulting in the reduction against 2002.

*2002 v. 2001*

Majority net income for 2002 decreased significantly by 54.45 percent to Ps 93.0 million for a majority net income of Ps 204.2 million in 2001. For 2002 majority net income represented 2.83 percent of sales compared to 6.78 percent in 2001.

### ***B. Liquidity and Capital Resources***

#### **General**

With improved financial results and reducing debt levels the Company has generated more consistent positive cash flows in recent periods than in many preceding years. However, the Company has relied to a great extent upon short term borrowings for liquidity in the years covered by the Financial Statements and while management considers cash generated from operations sufficient for the Company's working capital needs in the short term, any material unexpected increase in operating expenses could result in the need for further borrowing by the Company. The US \$100.0 million in debt incurred by the Company in connection with the Term Loan has already been amortized to US \$80.6 million, and the balance is to amortize completely over the remaining three years of the term of the Term Loan—unlike the Eurobonds, which paid interest only until their maturity date of August 1, 2002. The retirement of US \$80.6 million in debt over a three-year period will require substantial free cash generation by the Company, and any adverse development with respect to the Company's cash flow could make it difficult for the Company to meet its

payment obligations with respect to the Term Loan. *See* “–D. Trend Information” below.

The Company has financed most of its capital improvements and expansions through long-term borrowing as well as equity and other securities offerings. Proceeds from securities offerings have also been used to reduce and to consolidate debt.

### **Securities Offerings**

In December of 1994, Interceramic consummated a capital restructuring and initial public offering of equity securities in the United States (the “1994 Offering”), pursuant to which its capital structure was reorganized into the Common Units, each comprised of two Series B Shares, and the Limited Voting Units, each comprised of one Series D Share and one Series L Share. In the 1994 Offering, 3,480,000 Limited Voting Units and 1,044,000 ADRs were sold in Mexico and the United States, respectively, resulting in net proceeds to the Company of Ps 384.8 million. The proceeds from the 1994 Offering were used in part to pay bank debt and trade obligations of the Company, as well as for maintenance of a general working capital reserve that greatly assisted the Company in the liquidity crisis that followed in the wake of the Peso devaluation.

In May of 1996, Interceramic had a rights offering in Mexico (the “1996 Offering”) of 331,000 Limited Voting Units for the sole purpose of making Limited Voting Units available upon the exercise of options which may be granted to certain Mexican and United States employees of the Company pursuant to an incentive stock option plan which was approved by the Board and the shareholders of Interceramic on April 30, 1996 (the “SOP”). Under Mexican law, Interceramic was required to offer the securities intended for reservation under the SOP to existing securities holders first, before making them available to a trust organized by Interceramic for the purpose of holding the Limited Voting Units until options were exercised. Although Interceramic was not seeking, nor anticipating that existing holders would exercise any rights in the 1996 Offering, a total of 4,780 Limited Voting Units were subscribed for by existing holders, leaving 326,220 available for the SOP. In the 1996 Offering, the Company received Ps 92,864 from securities holders who exercised their preemptive rights. A similar offering was made in Mexico in May of 1997, when Interceramic’s capital was increased by 1,100,000 Limited Voting Units in order to allocate more securities to the SOP. As was the case in the 1996 Offering, a number of shareholders exercised their preemptive right, purchasing an aggregate of 126,063 Limited Voting Units. *See* “Item 6–Directors, Senior Management and Employees–E. Share Ownership–Stock Option or Other Incentive Plans,” below.

In April of 1997, Interceramic completed a rights offering (the “1997 Offering”) which was registered with the SEC under the 1933 Act pursuant to which each holder of record of the Common Units and Limited Voting Units, including holders of ADRs, each evidencing five Common Units (“CU ADRs”), and ADRs, each evidencing Limited Voting Units (“LVU ADRs”), was given the right to subscribe for a certain number of additional Common Units and/or Limited Voting Units or, with respect to holders of ADRs, additional CU ADRs and/or LVU ADRs. An aggregate of 3,301,000 Common Units and 6,699,000 Limited Voting Units were available for subscription in the Rights Offering, and all Units were subscribed. The 1997 Offering resulted in net proceeds to the Company of Ps 148.0 million, substantially all of which were used to pay certain short-term debt and current maturities of long-term debt.

In November of 2000, Interceramic made a public rights offering registered with the SEC under the 1933 Act (the “2000 Offering”) of Common Units to holders of record in the United States and in Mexico, primarily to enable Interceramic to make a private placement of certain of the unsubscribed Common Units to Kohler. Despite the price per Unit in the 2000 Offering being in excess of twice the then market price for a Common Unit on the Mexican Stock Exchange, 6,137 Units were subscribed for resulting in proceeds to Interceramic of Ps 232,331. Upon the close of the 2000 Offering and the deregistration of the unsubscribed Units under the 1933 Act, Interceramic was able to complete a private placement of 3,636,363 Common Units to Kohler (the “Kohler Placement”), resulting in proceeds to the Company of US \$12.0 million. The proceeds received by the Company were used to pay down certain short-term indebtedness of Interceramic USA and to pay certain trade and account creditors of the Company.

In March of 2004, Interceramic made another public rights offering registered with the SEC under the 1933 Act (the "2004 Offering") of Common Units and Limited Voting Units to holders of record in the United States and Mexico. In the 2004 Offering, shareholders exercising rights purchased 15,738,245 Units per Unit, resulting in proceeds to Interceramic of US \$21.0 million. Upon the close of the 2004 Offering and the deregistration of the unsubscribed Units under the 1933 Act, all 16,993,781 unsubscribed Units were sold in transactions exempt from registration under the 1933 Act to citizens and residents of Mexico resulting in further proceeds to the Company of US \$22.7 million. Of these proceeds, the Company used US \$15.8 million to acquire MASA and GISA and has allocated US \$25.0 million to the construction of the New Plant. The remaining US \$2.9 million was used to pay certain costs of the 2004 Offering and for other general corporate purposes of the Company.

### **Outstanding Indebtedness**

At December 31, 2003, the Company had Ps 51.0 million of cash equivalents and Ps 1,358.4 million of indebtedness. Of the Company's total indebtedness at December 31, 2003, Ps 972.4 million was long term and Ps 386.0 million was short term.

At December 31, 2003, all of the Company's indebtedness was denominated in Dollars, comprised of Ps 960.8 million of accrued interest on and principal amount of the Term Loan; an additional Ps 180.2 million of unsecured indebtedness; Ps 215.5 million of indebtedness secured by machinery, equipment, buildings and land, accounts receivable and inventory; and Ps 1.9 million represented by promissory notes due to suppliers and others.

At December 31, 2002, the Company had Ps 93.4 million of cash equivalents and Ps 1,291.6 million of indebtedness. Of the Company's total indebtedness at December 31, 2002, Ps 1,012.7 million was long term and Ps 278.9 million was short term.

At December 31, 2002, all of the Company's indebtedness was denominated in Dollars, comprised of Ps 1,117.4 million of accrued interest on and principal amount of the Term Loan; an additional Ps 101.3 million in unsecured indebtedness; Ps 67.7 million of indebtedness secured by machinery, equipment, buildings and land, accounts receivable and inventory; and Ps 5.2 million of financial instruments due to suppliers and others.

At December 31, 2001, the Company had Ps 237.5 million of cash equivalents and Ps 1,354.0 million of indebtedness. Of the Company's total indebtedness at December 31, 2001, Ps 263.4 million was long term and Ps 1,090.6 million was short term.

At December 31, 2001, all of the Company's indebtedness was denominated in Dollars, comprised of Ps 1,011.7 million of principal and accrued interest on the Eurobonds; an additional Ps 49.7 million of unsecured indebtedness; Ps 284.3 million of indebtedness secured by machinery, equipment, buildings and land, accounts receivable and inventory; and Ps 8.3 million of financial instruments due to suppliers and others.

In 2003 resources provided by operations was Ps 103.8 million compared to Ps 169.3 million in 2002. Inventories increased by 13.78 percent during 2003 over 2002 to Ps 942.0 million from Ps 827.9 million at the end of 2002.

In 2002 resources provided by operations was Ps 169.3 million compared to Ps 345.3 million in 2001. Inventories increased by 19.39 percent during the year over 2001 to Ps 827.9 million in 2002 from Ps 698.4 million at the end of 2001.

In 2001 resources provided by operations was Ps 345.3 million compared to Ps 334.0 million in 2000. Inventories decreased by 17.31 percent during the year over 2000 to Ps 698.4 million in 2001 from Ps 844.6 million at the end of 2000.

In 2003, Ps 468.9 million of debt was paid with resources generated by new borrowings of Ps 512.3. The Company also paid Ps 79.9 million in interest charges during the year from operating cash flow and from resources provided by borrowings.

In 2002, Ps 1,463.7 million of debt was paid by (i) Ps 102.3 million from cash flow from operations and (ii) Ps 1,361.4 million in new borrowings. The Company also paid Ps 114.8 million in interest charges during the year from operating cash flow.

In 2001, Ps 111.6 million principal amount of debt was paid by (i) Ps 31.4 million from cash flow from operations and (ii) Ps 80.2 million in new borrowings. The Company also paid Ps 148.2 million in interest charges from operating cash flow.

Debt increased during 2003 by 5.17 percent over 2002, primarily because cash flow generated from operations was absorbed by increases in inventories, including significant third-party products. Because all of the Company's debt is denominated in Dollars, the foreign exchange rate between the Peso and the Dollar can have a material effect on the Company's financial reporting. The effect is recognized on the Company's income statements where it was reported for 2003 as a net loss of Ps 91.5 million, for 2002 a net loss of Ps 115.8 million and for 2001 a net gain of Ps 52.8 million. The operating effect of any exchange rate losses is offset to some extent by the fact that the Company generates significant Dollar-denominated revenues. As all of the Company's debt is Dollar denominated, it does not effect inflation accounting on the Company's financial statements.

The Company's primary objective is to reduce its debt levels through application of available cash generated from operations. The rapid amortization of the Term Loan will, in the absence of further borrowings in the interim, reduce the Company's indebtedness to virtually nothing in the coming three-year period. In order to generate the excess cash needed to reduce its debt, the Company has focused on the reduction of expenses and improvement in selling prices. The construction of the New Plant with the proceeds received from the 2004 Offering and the acquisition of the franchise stores in Chihuahua and Monterrey are expected to assist the Company in the generation of cash in future periods, the franchise stores immediately and the New Plant when it commences production in the second quarter of 2005.

### **Financing Arrangements**

Prior to the Eurobonds, the Company had financing relationships with more than 13 lenders. As a result of the completion of the Eurobond and the prepayment of most of these relationships, the Company's debt structure became much more manageable with fewer lending relationships, freeing management from much of the time that had been spent in monitoring and managing these relationships. At December 31, 2001, the Company's outstanding indebtedness consisted of US \$90.0 million of the Eurobonds and an additional US \$35.6 million in other indebtedness, while at December 31, 2002, the Company's outstanding indebtedness consisted of US \$100.0 million of the Term Loan and an additional US \$16.4 million in other indebtedness. At December 31, 2003, the Company's outstanding indebtedness consisted of a US \$80.6 million balance of the Term Loan and additional indebtedness of US \$40.3 million.

The Eurobonds were replaced in July of 2002 with the Term Loan in an aggregate principal amount of US \$100.0 million. The Term Loan has two tranches, the "Term A Loan" in the amount of US \$40.0 million, which generally bears interest at a LIBOR rate plus between 1.70 and 2.20 percent, depending upon the Company's leverage ratio from time to time, and amortizes in quarterly payments which commenced on July 31, 2003 and continue until July 31, 2005, when the Term A Loan is to be paid in full. The first two principal installments on the Term A Loan were US \$6.25 million each, the next four installments are US \$3.125 million each and the final installments are US \$5.0 million each.

The “Term B Loan” tranche of the Term Loan is in the amount of US \$60.0 million, and generally bears interest at a LIBOR rate plus between 2.30 and 2.80 percent, again depending upon the Company’s leverage ratio. The Term B Loan amortizes in quarterly payments which commenced on July 31, 2003 and continue until July 31, 2007, when the Term B Loan is to be paid in full. The first ten principal installments on the Term B Loan are US \$1.25 million each, the next four installments are US \$5.625 million each and the final installments are US \$8.333 million each.

The Term Loan is secured by certain of the Company’s assets, including most real property and equipment as well as accounts receivable and inventory of the Company located in Mexico, the production machinery and equipment of Interceramic USA located in the United States and Interceramic’s stock in RISA. Under the Credit Agreement, the value of collateral pledged to secure the Term Loan must at all times equal or exceed 1.4 times the principal balance of the Term Loan outstanding from time to time. Further, the payment of the Term Loan and the performance of the Company’s obligations under the provisions of the Credit Agreement is guaranteed by Interceramic Holding, Interceramic USA and the Occidente and DISA subsidiaries in Mexico.

The Company also had five lines of credit available as of December 31, 2003 for short-term cash flow borrowings. The first is a US \$25.0 million facility provided to Interceramic USA by *Wells Fargo Bank Texas, N. A.* (“Wells Fargo”), of which US \$19.0 million was drawn down at December 31, 2003. The second line available to the Company at year end 2003 is a US \$6.0 million line of credit from Banamex to RISA, of which at December 31, 2003 none was drawn down. The remaining three lines of credit at December 31, 2003 were provided to Interceramic by Banamex, *BBVA Bancomer, S.A.* (“Bancomer”) and *Banco Mercantil del Norte, S.A.* (“Banorte”) in the respective amounts of US \$6.0 million, US \$5.0 million and US \$5.0 million. All of these lines were drawn down to the full available amount at the end of 2003.

In most of its loan documentation, the Company is required to observe standard covenants with respect to major transactions, mergers and combinations, disposition of assets, information reporting requirements and other matters, including (i) agreements with respect to the maintenance of the Controlling Group’s ownership of the Company and its continuing control of the management of the Company and (ii) limitations on incurring additional indebtedness, creating liens on the Company’s assets, paying dividends and intercompany indebtedness, making capital expenditures and incurring or permitting certain loans, investments or guaranties. Substantially all of the Company’s long term debt loan documentation contains cross default provisions to other Company debt.

Under the Credit Agreement applicable to the Term Loan, as amended, the Company is required to observe several financial ratios, requiring a (i) consolidated leverage ratio for the fiscal year 2003 of less than 3.50; (ii) a fixed charge coverage ratio of at least 1.10; (iii) an interest coverage ratio of at least 3.00 for the fiscal year 2003; and (iv) a current ratio of at least 1.50. At December 31, 2003 the Company was in compliance with each of these covenants. The leverage ratio changes to 3.25 for 2004, 2.75 for 2005 and to 2.50 thereafter, while the interest coverage ratio changes to 4.00 in 2005.

The Wells Fargo loan documentation also has a number of financial covenants applicable to Interceramic USA, including (i) a fixed charge coverage ratio of at least 1.5; (ii) a tangible net worth of at least US \$29.5 million (increasing by a factor of net income for years after 2003); (iii) a leverage ratio of no more than 1.75; and (iv) maximum capital expenditures of US \$4.0 million on an annual basis. At December 31, 2003, Interceramic USA was in compliance with these covenants.

Under the terms of the US \$ 6.0 million long term credit agreement with Banamex, RISA is required to maintain (i) a debt service coverage ratio of greater than 3.00; (ii) a current ratio of at least 1.30; and (iii) and a leverage ratio of less than 3.00 and, at December 31, 2003, RISA was in compliance with its financial covenants under this agreement.

### ***C. Research and Development***

The Company is continually working on new product development in order to provide more innovative and appealing products for the marketplace. Particularly in a very competitive industry and with technological changes and advances commonplace, the Company believes innovation to be critical to its strategies of increasing its selling prices and focusing on the higher end markets. The Company's research and development efforts are generally directed in designing new textures and finishes as well as "trim" and other decorative pieces to complement and enhance "field" tile. These research and development efforts involve many persons throughout the Company, and are directed by a Vice President of Innovation. New design ideas are then developed and tested at the Company's Research and Development Center in Chihuahua, Mexico, which contains a complete, small-scale production line. *See* "Item 4—Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—The Research and Development Center" above.

In 2003, the Company had research and development expenditures of Ps 21.2 million, while in 2002 and 2001 the expenditures for research and development were Ps 22.8 million and Ps 27.5 million, respectively.

***D. Trend Information***

*The following discussion is based primarily upon unaudited financial information for the first quarter of 2004 provided by the Company. The actual financial results of the Company for the first quarter of 2004 could differ significantly from the results discussed below. Peso amounts provided below may be converted into Dollars at an exchange rate of Ps 11.197 to US \$1.00, the Interbank Rate as of March 31, 2004.*

Sales in the first quarter of 2004 at Ps 857.0 million grew by 1.01 percent over sales of Ps 848.4 million in the first quarter of 2003. Sales for the quarter broke down to Ps 470.2 million in Mexico—down 2.16 percent over the same period last year—and Ps 386.8 million in the International markets, a 5.16 percent increase over the first quarter of 2003. In both markets the Company sold about five percent more product than it did during the first quarter of 2003. Higher cost of sales and operating costs attributable primarily to investment in selling infrastructure and higher natural gas prices impacted operating income, and at Ps 48.6 million was 33.69 percent behind operating income of Ps 73.3 million in the same period of 2003. The Company's EBITDA for the period did not lag quite so much, at Ps 96.2 million compared to Ps 116.0 million in the first quarter of 2003, a decrease of 17.07 percent. The Company also ended the period with a debt service coverage ratio of 5.4 and a debt to EBITDA ratio of 2.9.

***E. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements.***

During the year ended December 31, 2003 and at the date of this Annual Report, the Company had no off-balance sheet arrangements that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future effect on the Company's financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources that could be considered to be material.

***F. Tabular Disclosure of Contractual Obligations.***

The following table presents a summary as of December 31, 2003 of the Company's known contractual obligations:

**Payments Due by Period (1)**

One to Three Years	Three to Five Years	More than Five Years
-----------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

<b>Contractual Obligations</b>	Total	Less than One Year			
Long-term Debt Obligations	1,178,244	205,825	691,450	280,969	0
Non-cancellable Operating Leases	723,961	91,516	237,091	229,765	165,589
Purchase Obligations	0	0	0	0	0
Other Long-term Liabilities (2)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,902,205</b>	<b>297,341</b>	<b>928,541</b>	<b>510,734</b>	<b>165,589</b>

(1) Thousands of Pesos.

(2) As reflected on the balance sheet included with the Financial Statements under Mexican GAAP.

## **ITEM 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees**

### ***A. Directors and Senior Management***

The Board is composed of a minimum of 13 members and a maximum of 20 members, as determined by the shareholders at Interceramic's annual general ordinary shareholder's meeting. Under the *Estatutos Sociales* of Interceramic (the "Bylaws"), the holders of the Series D Shares are entitled to vote, as a class, on the election of two directors and their corresponding alternates and the holders of the Series L Shares are entitled to vote, as a class, on the election of two directors and their corresponding alternates. The holders of Series B Shares are entitled to elect all remaining directors. Additionally, the Bylaws provide that at least 25 percent of the members of the Board must be independent from the Company, as must be their respective designated alternates. The 13 current members of the Board were elected at shareholders' meetings held on April 20, 2004, and will serve for the remainder of the year or until their successors are duly elected or qualified. The Board is responsible for the management of the business of Interceramic. Officers of Interceramic serve at the discretion of the Board. In addition to the Board and the officers of Interceramic, Interceramic has statutory auditors, who are elected annually at the general ordinary shareholders' meeting. Under Mexican law, the duties of statutory auditors include, among other things, the examination of the operations, books, records and any other documents of Interceramic and the presentation at a general ordinary shareholders' meeting of a report of such examination.

### **Board of Directors**

The following table sets forth the current directors of the Company, their ages, years of service as a director and their principal occupation (with the Company, unless otherwise specified):

<b>Name (Age)</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Years as a Director</b>
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*Elected by Holders of the Series B Shares:*

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Oscar Almeida Chabre (77)	Chairman of the Board	26
Víctor D. Almeida García (45)	Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer	25
Alfredo Harp Calderoni (34)	Director	6
David Kohler (37)	Group President, Kohler Co.	3
Federico Terrazas Torres (71)	Chairman, Grupo Cementos de Chihuahua, S.A. de C.V.	15
Norma A. de Champion (47)	President, Automobile Dealerships	20
Diana E. Almeida (41)	Director	10
Carlos Elias Terrazas (46)	President, Comercial Corporativa del Norte, S.A. de C.V.	1
Humberto Valles Hernandez (68)	Financial Consultant and Retired Partner of Mancera, S.C.	1

***Elected by Holders of the Series D Shares:***

Sergio Mares Delgado (47)	President, Grupo Futurama, S.A. de C.V.	1
Augusto Champion Chapa (48)	Chairman, Arquitectura Habitacional e Industrial, S.A. de C.V.	11

***Elected by Holders of the Series L Shares:***

Mark M. Blaugrund (62)	President, RECON Real Estate Consultants, Inc.	15
Sylvia Almeida (43)	President, Corporación Administrativa y Técnica, S.A. de C.V.	9

*Oscar Almeida Chabre, Chairman of the Board.* Mr. Almeida was the founder of the Company and has been Chairman of the Board since its inception. He is a graduate of the School of Banking and Accounting in Mexico City and has been a member of the board of directors of several Mexican banks. In addition, Mr. Almeida has been a member of the board of directors of banks in the United States and other industrial and commercial conglomerates in Mexico. He is also Chairman of *Grupo Cencor, S.A. de C.V.* (“Grupo Cencor”). Mr. Almeida is the father of Víctor D. Almeida García, Diana E. Almeida, Sylvia Almeida and Norma A. de Champion. Additionally, one other director, Augusto Champion Chapa, is a son-in-law of Mr. Almeida.

*Víctor D. Almeida García, Vice Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer.* Mr. Almeida has been with the Company since its inception. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors Degree of Business Administration in Accounting. He serves on the Regional Board of Directors of Banamex and has been a member of the board of directors of two commercial banks located in El Paso, Texas. He has been President of Grupo Cencor since 1984.



*Alfredo Harp Calderoni.* Mr. Harp is a private investor, he has served as Chairman of SINCAS, Banamex-Accival and as a member of the Board of Directors of Banamex. He is an honors graduate of Universidad Anahuac in Mexico City.

*David Kohler.* Mr. Kohler is Group President of the Kohler Co. Kitchen and Bath Group and a member of Kohler's Board of Directors. He has served in a wide variety of capacities for Kohler since 1988, assuming his present duties in 1999. Mr. Kohler holds a Masters Degree in Management from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University and a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Duke University. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Menasha Corporation. Mr. Kohler was first elected to the Board in 2000 pursuant to an agreement between Kohler and the Controlling Group, under which the members of the Controlling Group agreed to use their best efforts to cause a Kohler representative to be elected to the Board.

*Federico Terrazas Torres.* Mr. Terrazas is Chairman of the Board of *Cementos de Chihuahua, S.A. de C.V.*, a cement manufacturer with operations in the State of Chihuahua and in New Mexico and South Dakota in the United States.

*Norma A. de Champion.* Ms. Champion is President of *Autocamiones de Chihuahua, S.A. de C.V.*, *Autos Internacionales de Chihuahua, S.A. de C.V.* and *Autos Europeos de Chihuahua, S.A. de C.V.*, affiliates of the Almeida Family which sell Chrysler, Honda and Mercedes Benz automobiles, respectively, throughout the State of Chihuahua. She has a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science from the University of Texas at Austin.

*Diana E. Almeida.* Ms. Almeida graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. She is Director of Consulting for *Corporación Administrativa y Técnica, S.A. de C.V.* ("Coratec"), an affiliate of the Almeida Family.

*Carlos Elias Terrazas.* Mr. Elias is newly elected to the Board. He is president of *Comercial Corporativa del Norte, S.A. de C.V.* a Investment and Services company located in Chihuahua, Chihuahua. He graduated from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in 1981 with a degree in Business Administration.

*Humberto Valles Hernandez.* Mr. Valles is a retired partner of Mancera, S.C., A Member Practice of Ernst & Young Global. He practiced accounting for over 30 years in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico. He graduated from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey.

*Sergio Mares Delgado.* Mr. Mares is the President of *Grupo Futurama, S.A. de C.V.*, in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, a discount and department store chain in the Northern Mexico. He graduated from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in 1980 with a degree in Mechanical Administration Engineering.

*Augusto Champion Chapa.* Mr. Champion is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, and an architect and commercial builder with operations throughout Mexico. He serves on the Regional Board of Directors of Banamex.

*Mark M. Blaugrund.* Mr. Blaugrund, a private investor, is the founder and President of RECON Real Estate Consultants Inc. in El Paso, Texas, a commercial real estate company.

*Sylvia Almeida.* Ms. Almeida graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration, majoring in Accounting and minoring in Data Processing. She has been employed at Coratec since 1983, where she is currently President.

### **Senior Management of Interceramic**

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The following table sets forth the current executive officers of Interceramic, their ages, current position with the Company and years of service with the Company:

<b>Name (Age)</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Years With Company</b>
Víctor D. Almeida García (45)	President and Chief Executive Officer	25
Luis Ferreiro Maiz (46)	Executive Vice President of Manufacturing	21
Humberto Maese Cordero (48)	Vice President of Innovation	25
Jesús Barney (42)	Director of Franchise Subsidiaries	5
Alfredo Hernández García (56)	Director of Sales and Marketing, Mexico	17
Felipe Matán Merino (46)	Technical Director	21
Jesús Olivas Corral (41)	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	19
Norma A. de Champion (47)	Secretary	20

*Jesús Olivas Corral, Executive Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer.* Mr. Olivas has served as Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer since 1996. He has been with the Company since 1985, starting as an Information System Analyst. From 1987 to 1991 he was Finance Manager and from 1991 to 1995 he served as the Director of Finance. He graduated with a Degree in Finance from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in 1985.

*Luis Ferreiro Maiz, Executive Vice President of Manufacturing.* Mr. Ferreiro has served as Vice President of Manufacturing since January 1996. From 1983 to 1985 he was the Materials Manager of Cerro Grande. From 1985 to 1986 he was the Production Manager of the Company and from 1986 through April 1990 he was the Plant Director. From May 1990 through December 1995 he was the Vice President of Operations. He graduated with a Degree in Engineering from the University of Chihuahua in 1980.

*Humberto Maese Cordero, Vice President of Innovation.* Mr. Maese served as Vice President of Marketing and Sales from 1987 to 1996, when his position changed to emphasize the Company's efforts in product innovation. From 1986 through 1987 he was Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Grupo Cencor and its subsidiaries and from 1982 through 1986 he was President of *Ladrillera Industrial, S.A. de C.V.*, a subsidiary of Grupo Cencor. He received a Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin and is qualified as a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Texas.

*Jesús Barney, Director of Franchise Subsidiaries.* Mr. Barney was named Director of Franchise Subsidiaries in March of 1999, when he rejoined the service of Interceramic. He first started with Interceramic in 1984 as an analyst, moving later to RISA as Administrative Director of the construction and start up process of the plant. He graduated with a Degree in Public Accountancy from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in 1984.

*Alfredo Hernández García, Director of Customer Service.* Mr. Hernández was named Director of Sales and Marketing, Mexico in 1997. He has been with the Company since 1986, starting as an accountant. From 1990 to 1994, he was Administrative Director of RISA and from 1995 to 1997, he served as Interceramic's Director of Customer Service. Prior to becoming Director of Customer Service, Mr. Hernández was responsible for the Company's DISA subsidiary in Mexico City. He graduated with a Degree in Public Accountancy from the University of Chihuahua in

1978.

*Felipe Matán Merino, Technical Director.* Mr. Matán has been Technical Director of the Company since 1998, coming from the position of Director of Research and Development for the Company, a position he had held since 1987. He had served the Company in a variety of positions prior to that time, having started with the Company in 1982 as supervisor of raw materials control. Mr. Matán graduated with a Degree in Engineering from the Technological Institute of Chihuahua in 1982.

### **Senior Management of Interceramic USA**

Interceramic USA is governed by a Board of Directors (the “USA Board”), appointed annually by Interceramic as the sole shareholder of Interceramic USA. The USA Board is currently comprised of three members, Oscar Almeida Chabre, Víctor D. Almeida García and Jesús Olivas Corral. Mr. Olivas was elected to the USA Board in 1999, while the other members have served on the USA Board for in excess of ten years each.

The following table sets forth the current officers of Interceramic USA, their ages, current position and years of service with the Company:

<b>Name (Age) Company</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Years With</b>
Víctor D. Almeida García (45)	President and Chief Executive Officer	25
Jesús Olivas Corral (41)	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	19
Steve Belken (48)	Executive Vice President of United States Operations	5
Jim Banks (53)	Vice President of Sales, United States	12
Mark E. Mendel (47)	Secretary	16

*Steve Belken, Executive Vice President of United States Operations.* Mr. Belken began his service with Interceramic USA in February of 1999, starting as manager of the accounting department at Interceramic USA. Mr. Belken was named to his present position in March of 2001. Prior to coming to Interceramic USA, Mr. Belken served 18 years in various positions in finance and operations management in both the building products and consumer product industries. He graduated with a Degree in Public Accountancy from the University of Texas at Arlington.

*Jim Banks, Vice President of Sales, United States.* Mr. Banks has been working for the Company since 1992, when he was named branch manager of an ITS store in Dallas, Texas. Advancing to the position of a regional manager for ITS, Mr. Banks oversaw ITS expansions in Fort Worth, Plano and Austin, Texas as well as supervised ITS locations in San Antonio, Texas. He became director of sales for all of ITS and was promoted to his current position in 1999, which gives him responsibility for the independent distribution throughout the United States and in Canada.

*Mark E. Mendel, Secretary.* Mr. Mendel is an attorney and a partner in the El Paso, Texas firm of Mendel • Blumenfeld, LLP. Mr. Mendel is general United States counsel to the Company, and commenced his representation of the Company in 1985. He is a 1978 graduate of Washington & Lee University and a 1981 graduate of Texas Tech University School of Law.

### ***B. Compensation***

For the year ended December 31, 2003, the aggregate compensation paid by the Company to its directors, alternate directors and executive officers for services in all capacities was approximately Ps 34.8 million (approximately US \$3.1 million using the Interbank Rate as of December 31, 2003). Options to acquire up to 166,000 Limited Voting Units were granted to certain of these individuals during 2003. See “–E. Share Ownership” below.

**C. Board Practices**

The Company has no employment agreements with any director, officer or employee, all such persons serving at the will of their respective superiors. On July 16, 2001, the Company entered into agreements with certain officers of Interceramic and Interceramic USA for the provision of benefits in the event of a change in control of Interceramic. These agreements, which expire on December 31, 2005, provide for (i) payment of bonuses to five current officers in an amount aggregating US \$1.7 million upon a change in control of the Company and (ii) payment to the same five officers of certain amounts which, currently, range from US \$230,00 to US \$500,000, in the event of a change in control of the Company followed by the applicable officer either being terminated from the employment of the Company or leaving the Company with cause. Interceramic maintains an audit committee of its Board (the “Audit Committee”). For information on the directors and executive officers of the Company, see “–A. Directors and Senior Management” above.

**D. Employees**

As part of the Company’s efforts to reduce its cost of production and build a leaner, more efficient along the model of the premier European tile manufacturers, it has been working on reducing its workforce across the board. At the end of 2003, 2002 and 2001, the Company had 3,045, 3,098 and 3,127 employees, respectively. The following chart provides a breakdown of location and function of the Company’s workforce:

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>United States</b>			
Manufacturing	268	253	269
Sales and Administration	324	362	379
Total	592	615	648
<b>Mexico</b>			
Manufacturing	1,779	1,602	1,509
Sales and Administration	726	844	859
Other	30	28	29
Total	2,535	2,474	2,397
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,127</b>	<b>3,098</b>	<b>3,045</b>

**E. Share Ownership****Shareholdings of Directors and Senior Management**

The chart on the following page describes the shareholdings of members of the Board and senior management of the Company who own in excess of one percent of the applicable class:

<b>Shareholder</b>	<b>Number of Common Units</b>	<b>Percent of Class</b>	<b>Number of Limited Voting Units</b>	<b>Percent of Class</b>	<b>Options Granted</b>
Oscar E. Almeida	23,356,432	48.20	2,946,419	8.96	0
Victor D. Almeida	585,737	1.21	0	0.00	0
Alfredo Harp Calderoni	2,658,186	5.49	0	0.00	0

The following members of the Board and senior management of the Company own less than one percent of the equity securities of Interceramic: Mark M. Blaugrund, Humberto Maese Cordero, Jesús Olivas Corral, Luis Ferreiro Maiz, Felipe Matán and Alfredo Hernández García.

**Stock Option or Other Incentive Plans**

On April 30, 1996, the SOP was approved, pursuant to which certain employees and executives of the Company may be granted options from time to time during its term to purchase an amount of Limited Voting Units per eligible employee as set by a committee of the Board. During 1996, an aggregate of 326,220 Limited Voting Units were available for purchase by employees under the SOP. Due to certain peculiarities of Mexican law, all of the shares allocable under the SOP were issued to and purchased by a trust established expressly for that purpose (the "ISOP Trust"). The purchases by the ISOP Trust were funded by contributions made by the Company, and, upon the exercise of a stock option by an employee, the employee in effect purchases the applicable shares directly from the ISOP Trust. In addition to termination by expiration, under the SOP options may terminate for certain other reasons, including death, disability or cessation of employment with the Company.

At December 31, 1996, options to purchase all 311,000 Limited Voting Units had been granted and were outstanding (the "1996 Options"). The purchase price for Limited Voting Units subject to the 1996 Options is Ps 11.48 per Unit. The 1996 Options were generally not exercisable until July 3, 1998, and expired if not exercised by July 3, 2001. Of the total 1996 Options (i) 53,000 were exercised in June 2001; (ii) 138,000 lapsed due to the option holders leaving the employment of the Company prior to exercise; and (iii) 120,000 expired unexercised on July 3, 2001.

At a meeting of the shareholders of Interceramic held on May 20, 1997, an increase in the capital of Interceramic by 1,100,000 Limited Voting Units was approved. Interceramic's intention in connection with this capital increase was to dedicate the shares authorized by the increase for issuance during 1997, 1998 and 1999 pursuant to the SOP. However, although Interceramic was neither seeking nor expecting shareholders to exercise their statutory preemptive right to acquire the shares being made available in connection with the capital increase, an aggregate of 126,063 new Units were subscribed for and purchased by shareholders exercising their preemptive rights, resulting in Interceramic receiving proceeds of Ps 1.8 million on June 23, 1997. The remaining 973,937 Units remain available for purchase under the SOP. On June 11, 1997, the Company granted options to acquire a total of 333,000 Limited Voting Units to participants in the SOP (the "1997 Options"). The purchase price for Limited Voting Units subject to the 1997

Options is Ps 13.96 per Unit. Of the total 1997 Options (i) 33,000 were exercised on June 11, 2002; (ii) 159,000 lapsed due to the option holders leaving the employment of the Company; and (iii) 141,000 expired unexercised on June 11, 2002. are generally not exercisable until June 11, 1999, and expire if not exercised by June 11, 2002. On May 20, 1998, the Company granted options to acquire a total of 350,000 Limited Voting Units to participants in the SOP (the "1998 Options"). The purchase price for Limited Voting Units subject to the 1998 Options is Ps 12.30 per Unit. The 1998 Options may not, generally, be exercised until May 20, 2000, and expire if not exercised by May 20, 2003. Of the total 1998 Options (i) 10,000 were exercised in May 2003; (ii) 178,000 lapsed due to option holders leaving the employment of the Company prior to exercise; and (iii) 162,000 expired unexercised on May 20, 2003.

On April 23, 1999, the Company granted options to acquire an aggregate of 360,000 Limited Voting Units to certain participants in the SOP (the "1999 Options"). The purchase price for Limited Voting Units subject to the 1999 Options is Ps 9.40 per Unit. The 1999 Units may not be exercised until April 23, 2001 and expire if not exercised by April 23, 2004.

During 2000, the Company decided to cease granting options under the SOP, and terminated it for all purposes other than to govern options previously granted. However, in 2001, 2002 and 2003 the Board decided to reassign certain expired options under the SOP, and in July 2001 options to acquire an additional 570,000 Limited Voting Units (the "July 2001 Options") were granted to certain officers of the Company at an exercise price of Ps 17.00 per Unit. In November 2001, additional options to acquire 77,000 Limited Voting Units (the "November 2001 Options") were granted to certain officers of the Company at an exercise price of Ps 17.00 per Unit. In August 2002, additional options to acquire 177,000 Limited Voting Units ( the "August 2002 options") were granted to certain officers of the Company at an exercise price of Ps 12.15 per Unit. In September 2003, additional options to acquire 166,000 Limited Voting Units (the "September 2003 Options") were granted to certain officers of the Company at an exercise price of Ps 11.50 per Unit. Additionally, the Board decided to reduce the exercise price of the July 2001 and November 2001 options to Ps 12.15 per Unit. The September 2003, August 2002, July 2001 and the November 2001 Options represented reassignment of options to acquire Limited Voting Units that had either previously expired or lapsed.

As of June 1, 2004, officers and directors of the Company, as a group, held options to acquire an aggregate 1,154,700 Limited Voting Units.

## ITEM 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions

### A. Major Shareholders

The following table sets forth certain information concerning the ownership of the capital stock of the Company as of May 30, 2004 with respect to each shareholder of the Company known to the Company to be the beneficial owner of more than ten percent of either the Common Units or the Limited Voting Units, as well as the holdings of all directors and officers of the Company as a group.

Identity of Owner	Shares Owned				Aggregate Percentage Outstanding Shares
	Common Units		Limited Voting Units		
	Number	% of Class	Number	% of Class	
Almeida Family (1)	24,876,009	51.34	2,956,419	8.99	34.22

Harp Family (2)	11,482,393	23.70	10,333,511	31.43	26.82
Roberto Hernandez	1,745,266	3.60	6,018,534	18.31	9.55
JayHawk (3)	0	0.00	3,820,590	11.62	4.70
Other Officers and Directors	404,664	0.84	125,379	0.38	0.65
Other Shareholders	9,944,984	20.52	9,624,313	29.27	24.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,453,316</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>32,878,746</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

- (1) Owned directly by Oscar Almeida Chabre or members of his immediate family.
- (2) Shares owned beneficially by Alfredo Harp Helu and his three adult children and also shares held in a trust (the “Banamex Trust”) administered by Banamex. *See* “–The Harp Family and the Banamex Trust” below.
- (3) JayHawk is JayHawk Institutional Partners, an investment group from Kansas City, Missouri.

### **The Harp Family and the Banamex Trust**

Alfredo Harp Helu has owned a substantial number of Common Units for several years. Over the course of 2003 and 2004, three adult children of Mr. Harp acquired equal numbers of Common Units. These three persons are also the beneficiaries of the Banamex Trust. Although these persons own the same number of Common Units and acquired their Units at substantially the same time, there is no agreement or other obligation among them to vote their shares in any particular way or to act in any concerted manner with respect to the acquisition, ownership or disposition of their respective Common Units.

The Banamex Trust was initially formed in order to provide a controlling position in the Common Units (or Series B Shares) subsequent to the completion of the Kohler Placement in November of 2000. The control arrangement was required under certain of Interceramic’s loan documentation which requires that the Almeida Family retain effective voting control over Interceramic. However, upon the completion of the Kohler Placement, the Almeida Family owned only 48.6 percent of the Common Units. The Lenders agreed to the use of the Banamex Trust as a method for the Almeida Family to retain voting control over the Common Units, as pursuant to an agreement between the Almeida Family and the beneficial owners of the Banamex Trust, the Banamex Trust and the Almeida Family will vote their respective Common Units coincident with each other. As the result of some stock repurchases effected by the Company and purchases by the Almeida Family in the 2004 Offering, the ownership of Common Units by the Almeida Family currently exceeds 50 percent, and this arrangement is no longer necessary to ensure the required degree of control.

### **Holdings in the United States**

Given the wide-spread nature of holdings of securities in book-entry form both in the United States and in Mexico, it is difficult for Interceramic to determine with any accuracy the extent of its holdings in the United States. However, at April 30, 2004 (i) 36.4 thousand, or 0.08 percent, of the outstanding Common Units were trading in the United States as ADRs and (ii) 6.2 million, or 18.79 percent, of the issued and outstanding Limited Voting Units were trading in the United States as ADRs. Interceramic does not believe that a material amount of the Common Units and Limited Voting Units trading on the Mexican Stock Exchange are beneficially owned by United States residents or citizens.

***B. Related Party Transactions***

Until their acquisition by the Company in 2004, GISA and MASA were owned and controlled by the Almeida Family and they accounted for approximately 15.29 percent of the consolidated unit sales of the Company in Mexico during 2003, representing 9.89 percent of the Company's aggregate unit sales. The largest of these, GISA, accounted for sales of approximately 21.0 million square feet of ceramic tile (Ps 174.0 million), approximately five percent of consolidated sales, in that period, making it the second largest customer of the Company by unit volume, while MASA purchased approximately 9.3 million square feet of ceramic tile (Ps 83.2 million), less than three percent of consolidated sales, from the Company in that period, making it the fourth largest customer by unit volume. In 2002 and 2001, GISA and MASA accounted for Company sales in the respective amounts of (i) with respect to GISA, Ps 185.2 million and Ps 163.9 million, and (ii) with respect to MASA, Ps 77.7 million and Ps 85.3 million.

The Company believes that sales to these affiliated customers have been on commercially reasonable terms, no less favorable to the Company than those conducted in comparable arms-length transactions with customers not affiliated with the Company.

The Company contracts with Coratec for certain internal auditing services and computer programming for general accounts, accounts payable and receivables and other accounting services (charged according to program running time). In 2003, 2002, and 2001 the Company paid Coratec Ps 22.8 million, Ps 23.9 million, and Ps 26.1 million respectively, for their services.

Coratec indirectly owns all of the stock of *Corporación Aerea Cencor, S.A. de C.V.* ("Coracen"), which provides air taxi services to the Company in order to accommodate some of the regional business travel requirements of the Company's officers and directors as well as current and prospective customers and clients of the Company. The total value of the services provided by Coracen to the Company in 2003 of Ps 9.7 million was equal to 1.02 percent of the total operating expenses and equivalent to 0.28 percent of sales for such period. In 2002 and 2001, the cost of services provided by Coracen services were Ps 10.1 million and Ps 7.9 million, respectively.

A director of the Company, Augusto Champion Chapa, owns a controlling interest in *Arquitectura Habitacional e Industrial, S.A. de C.V.* ("Arquitectura"), an architectural design and construction company based in the City of Chihuahua. Arquitectura has provided design and construction services on several of the Company's projects in Mexico. Another director, Mark M. Blaugrund, owns a controlling interest in *RECON Real Estate Consultants, Inc.* ("Recon"), an El Paso, Texas based commercial real estate company. Recon has received real estate commissions from the Company in connection with numerous property leases for Interceramic USA, including with respect to the Garland Lease and the Garland Warehouse Lease.

The Company or its subsidiaries have entered into other contracts with members or affiliates of the Controlling Group but which are, in the aggregate, not believed to be material to the Company on a consolidated basis.

Certain of the officers and directors of the Company are also equity owners, officers or directors of various other Controlling Group affiliates.

The Company believes that the various transactions and contracts entered into with these persons are, in general, upon terms and conditions no more or less favorable to the Company than would be the case if it were dealing with independent third parties.

At December 31, 2003 and as of the date of this Annual Report, there are no loans outstanding from the Company to any officer or director of the Company or any member of the Controlling Group.

***C. Interests of Experts and Counsel***



Not applicable.

## **ITEM 8. Financial Information**

### ***A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information***

#### **Financial Statements**

See “Item 19–Exhibits” for a list of the Financial Statements filed under Item 18.

#### **Legal Proceedings**

In the normal course of its business operations Interceramic and its subsidiaries have either been plaintiffs or been named as defendants in a variety of legal actions. The Company believes that all pending actions or proceedings are covered by insurance or are not material to the financial condition, business and affairs of the Company, taken as a whole.

#### **Dividend Policies**

The Board has no set policy on dividends, Interceramic having paid only one dividend in its history. In recent years, all available cash generated from operations has been applied to working capital and the reduction of indebtedness, and management expects this to continue for the foreseeable future.

### ***B. Significant Changes***

In the opinion of management, there have been no significant changes to the Company on a consolidated basis since the date of the Financial Statements. See “Item 5–Operating and Financial Review and Prospects–D. Trend Information” above.

## **ITEM 9. The Offer and Listing**

### ***A. Offer and Listing Details***

#### **Price History**

In December of 1994, Interceramic completed the 1994 Offering, at which time the LVU ADRs commenced trading on the NYSE. The LVU ADRs are issued under the terms of a Deposit Agreement dated December 15, 1994, as amended (the “LVU Deposit Agreement”), among Citibank, N.A., as depositary (the “Depositary”), Interceramic and the registered holders from time to time of the LVU ADRs. At April 30, 2004, 1,235,758 LVU ADRs were outstanding and trading on the NYSE. The CU ADRs are issued under the terms of an Amended and Restated Deposit Agreement dated December 15, 1994, as amended (the “CU Deposit Agreement” and, collectively with the LVU Deposit Agreement, the “Deposit Agreement”), among the Depositary, Interceramic and the registered holders from time to time of the CU ADRs, and trade in the United States in an unrestricted program, but not on any established market. Historically, there has been extremely limited trading in the CU ADRs in the United States and the volume of Common Units in the program has decreased over the years. At April 30, 2004, approximately 7,276 CU ADRs were outstanding.

#### ***High and Low Prices for Past Five Fiscal Years on the NYSE***

The table below shows the high and low sales prices in Dollars of the LVU ADRs on the NYSE for the preceding five fiscal years:

<b>Year</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>
2003	7.80	5.10
2002	13.00	4.75
2001	10.13	6.90
2000	9.63	4.25
1999	6.68	2.69

*High and Low Prices by Quarter for Past Two Fiscal Years on the NYSE*

The table below shows the high and low sales prices in Dollars and the average daily trading volume in the LVU ADRs on the NYSE for the preceding two fiscal year periods:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Dollars per ADR(1)</b>		<b>Average Daily Trading Volume in ADRs(1)</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	
2002:			
First Quarter	7.90	7.10	1,050
Second Quarter	11.95	7.80	2,334
Third Quarter	8.60	4.90	8,163
Fourth Quarter	7.00	4.75	3,550
2003:			
First Quarter	7.10	5.75	1,397
Second Quarter	5.85	5.35	692
Third Quarter	5.65	5.10	356
Fourth Quarter	7.80	5.35	1,019
2004:			

First Quarter	10.00	7.00	1,095
Second Quarter(2)	7.40	6.62	858

(1) Source: NYSE; the Company.

(2) To June 3, 2004.

*High and Low Prices by Quarter for Past Two Fiscal Years on the Mexican Stock Exchange*

The table below shows the high and low sales prices in nominal Pesos and the average daily trading volume in the Common Units and the Limited Voting Units on the Mexican Stock Exchange for the preceding two fiscal periods:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Nominal Pesos per Common Unit(1)</b>		<b>Average Daily Trading Volume in Common Units(1)</b>
	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	
2002:			
First Quarter	16.20	16.20	0
Second Quarter	16.20	16.20	0
Third Quarter	13.77	11.00	26
Fourth Quarter	11.51	11.30	24,277
2003:			
First Quarter	12.00	11.30	42,550
Second Quarter	12.00	12.00	0
Third Quarter	12.00	12.00	0
Fourth Quarter	11.50	11.10	2,103
2004:			
First Quarter	12.01	12.00	377

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Second Quarter(2) 17.51 16.50 2,067

(1) Source: NYSE; the Company.

(2) To June 3, 2004.

Period	Nominal Pesos per Limited Voting Unit(1)		Average Daily Trading Volume in Limited Voting Units(1)
	High	Low	
2002:			
First Quarter	15.3	12.60	1,132
Second Quarter	19.4	14.50	714
Third Quarter	16.5	11.00	13,847
Fourth Quarter	12.01	12.00	56,155
2003:			
First Quarter	12.51	12.00	8,663
Second Quarter	12.80	11.17	25,937
Third Quarter	11.50	11.50	783
Fourth Quarter	11.75	11.15	84,790
2004:			
First Quarter	11.15	11.15	0
Second Quarter(2)	17.00	16.40	3,342

(1) Source: Mexican Stock Exchange.

(2) To June 3, 2004.

*High and Low Prices for the Most Recent Six Months on the NYSE*

The table below shows the high and low sales prices in Dollars of the LVU ADRs on the NYSE for the seven preceding months:

Period	Dollars per ADR(1)	
	High	Low
December, 2003	7.80	7.25
January, 2004	7.45	6.95
February, 2004	9.40	7.20
March, 2004	10.00	7.70
April, 2004	8.25	6.60
May, 2004	7.40	6.62
June, 2004(2)	7.26	7.26

(1) Source: NYSE; the Company.

(2) At June 3, 2004.

***B. Plan of Distribution***

Not applicable.

***C. Markets***

**New York Stock Exchange**

The LVU ADRs have been listed and trading on the NYSE since December of 1994 under the symbol “ICM.” The NYSE traces its origins back to 1792 and is arguably the best known securities exchange in the world. The NYSE registered as a national securities exchange with the SEC on October 1, 1934. The Governing Committee was the primary governing body of the NYSE until 1938, at which time the NYSE hired its first paid president and created a 33 member Board of Governors. The Board of Governors included NYSE members, non-member partners from both New York and out-of-town firms, as well as public representatives. In 1971 the NYSE was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation. In 1972 the members voted to replace the Board of Governors with a 25 member Board of Directors, comprised of a Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, 12 representatives of the public and 12 representatives from the securities industry.

On December 17, 2003, the SEC approved the amended and restated NYSE Constitution. The amendments had also been approved by the NYSE members on November 18, 2003. The changes to the NYSE Constitution created a new governance architecture, increasing transparency, the independence of its Board of Directors and strengthening the integrity of the NYSE self-regulatory function.

The new structure created a Board of Directors (the “BoD”) comprised of independent directors and a Board of Executives (the “BoE”), comprised of approximately 20 constituent representatives, including public pension funds, institutional investors, listed companies, individual investors, broker-dealers, the trading floor and other members. The BoE is to engage with NYSE senior management as well as with the BoD in an ongoing review of NYSE performance, membership issues, listed company issues and public issues relating to overall market structure.

Another key component in the new governance structure relates to the NYSE’s role as self-regulator. The Chief Regulatory Officer of the NYSE reports directly to an independent BoD committee, called the “Regulatory Oversight & Regulatory Budget Committee.” This functional separation of NYSE regulation from the exchange business is intended to ensure independence while retaining sufficient proximity to the marketplace to assure the market sensitivity that the NYSE believes is fundamental to effective regulation of the capital markets.

The largest equities marketplace in the world, at the end of 2003, the NYSE was home to 2,750 companies worth US \$17.3 trillion in global market capitalization. As of year-end 2003, the NYSE had 359.7 billion shares listed and available for trading and during the course of 2003 the NYSE handled US \$9.7 trillion in trades. Over two-thirds of the roster of NYSE companies have listed within the last 12 years. These companies include a cross-section of leading United States companies, mid-size and small capitalization companies. Non-United States issuers play an increasingly important role on the NYSE. At the end of 2003, 467 non-United States companies were listed on the NYSE—more than triple the number five years ago.

Trading on the NYSE commences on the NYSE at 9:30 a.m. New York, New York time and ends at 4:00 p.m. Trading occurs Monday through Friday of each week during the year, other than nine recognized holidays. Further information regarding the NYSE may be found on its web page at [www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com) from which substantially all of the foregoing information has been obtained.

### **The Mexican Stock Exchange**

Interceramic securities have traded on the Mexican Stock Exchange since 1987, and since the restructuring of its capital stock in 1994, the Common Units have traded as “ceramic ub” and the Limited Voting Units as “ceramic uld.” The Mexican Stock Exchange, which was founded in 1894 and has operated continuously since 1907, is located in Mexico City and is Mexico’s only stock exchange. The Mexican Stock Exchange is organized as a corporation with its shares being held by approximately 30 brokerage firms.

Equity trading takes place on the Mexican Stock Exchange each weekday other than holidays, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., local time, although offers to buy and to sell may be made starting at 8:00 a.m. Each trading day is divided into six trading sessions with ten minute periods separating each session. Trades in securities listed on the Mexican Stock Exchange can, subject to certain requirements, also be effected off of the Mexican Stock Exchange. However, due primarily to Mexican tax considerations relating to capital gains, most transactions in listed Mexican securities are carried out on the Mexican Stock Exchange. The Mexican Stock Exchange and the *Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores*, the Mexican national securities commission (the “CNBV”), have implemented an automatic trading system which has substantially replaced trading on the floor of the Mexican Stock Exchange.

As of December 31, 2003, the shares of 176 Mexican companies, excluding mutual funds, were listed on the Mexican Stock Exchange. In 2003, the ten most actively traded equity issues represented approximately 67.40 percent of the total volume of equity issues traded thereon. There is no formal over-the-counter market for securities in Mexico. Although there is substantial participation by the public in the trading of securities on the Mexican Stock

Exchange, a major part of such activity reflects transactions by institutional investors. Further information regarding the Mexican Stock Exchange may be found on its web page at [www.bmv.com.mx](http://www.bmv.com.mx).

***D. Selling Shareholders***

Not applicable.

***E. Dilution***

Not applicable.

***F. Expenses of the Issue***

Not applicable.

**ITEM 10. Additional Information**

***A. Share Capital***

Not applicable.

***B. Memorandum and Articles of Association***

Interceramic was organized on February 17, 1978 by the establishment of Public Deed Number 4,347 given at the Office of the Public Notary Number 4 in the City of Chihuahua. This was followed by the filing of its *Acta Constitutiva*, or articles of incorporation (the “Articles”), with the *Registro Público de Comercio del Distrito Morelos en la Ciudad de Chihuahua* (the “Public Registry of Property and Commerce of the Morelos District of the City of Chihuahua” or the “Public Registry”) on March 16, 1978. The Bylaws contain most of the material provisions regarding the governance of Interceramic, and copies of the Bylaws have also been filed with, and can be examined at, the Public Registry. English translations of the Articles and Bylaws, each as amended to date, were filed as Exhibits to the Company’s Registrations Statement on Form F-3 filed with the SEC on January 12, 2004.

**Corporate Purposes**

Pursuant to Article 2 of the Articles, Interceramic’s corporate objectives and purposes include:

- the manufacture, purchase and sale of all types of tile and stone and related products;
- the manufacture and purchase of parts and machinery for production purposes;
- acquisition of all fixed assets necessary to set up or install plants, factories and warehouses;
- purchase of lots and easements as is necessary to obtain raw materials;
- purchase or rent all necessary buildings, machinery, equipment and vehicles necessary for the purchase and transportation of the above mentioned products;
- acquisition of lots and homes, as well as construction of homes;
- obtain mortgages and loans of all types and obtain financing to reach any of the corporate objectives;

- enter into distribution, commission and retail contracts;
- organize, finance and otherwise promote all types of companies and retail establishments;
- acquisition of stock and shares of other companies;
- serve as economic and technical consultants to professionals, construction workers, construction companies and companies in general;
- serve as technical, economic and administrative consultants to subsidiary companies and third parties, as well as providing any other services to subsidiaries;
- provide qualified personnel to subsidiaries that so request;
- engage in exploration for and in the extraction, processing, production, use and sale of metals and other natural products;
- obtain, transfer, convey or otherwise deal in legal title or other interests in and to mining properties and mineral processing facilities;
- provide and obtain any services relating to any of the foregoing activities;
- employ personnel and obtain permits necessary to achieve any of the foregoing objectives; and
- realize and enter into any acts and contracts and any other commercial activities and operations allowed by applicable law.

### **Certain Matters Regarding Directors**

The Bylaws contain no restriction on the ability of a director to vote on any matter in which the director has a material interest; however the Board has a formally adopted policy pursuant to which if a director has a material interest in a matter pending before the Board, the director must announce the nature of the interest and excuse the director from debate, consideration and voting on the issue. The Bylaws do not contain any restriction on the ability of the directors to establish their compensation, either in the aggregate or for any particular director. Additionally, neither the Bylaws nor Board policy impose an age limitation on directors nor impose any shareholding requirement.

With respect to borrowing powers, the Board generally delegates the power to exercise a variety of corporate powers to one or more officers of Interceramic by a power-of-attorney. Typically, this power is sufficient to enable the grantee to borrow money and undertake virtually all ordinary corporate powers on behalf of Interceramic over the course of the year. In practice, material transactions are brought for discussion before the Board at regularly called monthly meetings although formal Board votes are rarely conducted.

Interceramic USA operates somewhat differently, and the borrowing power is in all material respects exercised only upon express resolution by the Interceramic USA board of directors.

### **Outstanding Capital Stock**

The authorized capital stock of Interceramic consists of 162,800,072, shares, divided into three classes of stock without par value, the Series B Shares in the amount of 96,906,632, the Series D Shares in the amount of 32,946,720 and the Series L Shares in the amount of 32,946,720, of which on April 30, 2004, 162,664,124 were issued and outstanding, consisting of 96,906,632 Series B Shares and 32,878,746 shares each of the Series D Shares



and the Series L Shares. Pursuant to the Bylaws, until December 7, 2004 (the “Separation Date”), the Series B Shares are required to trade in pairs of two as Common Units, and the Series D Shares and the Series L Shares are required to trade in pairs of one share of each class as Limited Voting Units.

### **Units**

The Bylaws require that Interceramic’s capital stock trade as either Common Units or Limited Voting Units until the Separation Date. Upon later sales, if any, by Interceramic of its capital stock, until the Separation Date sales will be of the applicable Common Units or Limited Voting Units, and neither the Series B Shares, the Series D Shares nor the Series L Shares will be sold in any form other than Common Units and Limited Voting Units. In connection with each subsequent sale of Common Units or Limited Voting Units, if any, the applicable Units will separate with all other then outstanding Units on the Separation Date, regardless of when the Units were first offered and sold, unless, in connection with any sale, Interceramic requests and the *Registro Nacional de Valores e Intermediarios* (the “RNVI”) maintained by the CNBV, approves a longer period for the applicable Units to trade in Unit form.

On the Separation Date, the Series L Shares will convert to Series B Shares, and thereafter, the Series L Shares will cease to exist as a class of Interceramic’s capital stock, and all voting and other rights previously applicable to holders of Series L Shares will no longer exist, other than to the extent rights may be available under the Bylaws to holders of Series B Shares.

### **Changes in Capital Stock, Preemptive Rights and Redemption**

The capital stock of Interceramic may be increased or decreased by a resolution passed at a general extraordinary meeting of the holders of the Series B Shares—however, the Series B Shares must at all times exceed 50 percent of Interceramic’s capital stock.

If the capital stock is increased, shareholders will have preemptive rights to subscribe for the new shares in proportion to their holdings relative to all capital stock then outstanding, except in the case of shares issued:

- in connection with mergers;
- upon the conversion of convertible debentures; or
- for placement in public offerings, if the shareholders at a general extraordinary shareholders’ meeting called for that purpose approve the issuance of shares and the waiver of preemptive rights.

Interceramic may resell shares retained in the treasury as a result of share repurchases conducted on the Mexican Stock Exchange without triggering the preemptive rights of shareholders. The subscription period for the exercise of preemptive rights is determined by the shareholders’ meeting which approved the increase in the capital stock. However, the subscription period may not be less than 15 days after publication in the *Periodico Oficial del Estado* (the “Official Gazette”) of a notice of the issuance of new shares. Holders of ADRs may not be entitled to receive any rights to purchase securities which have not been registered under the 1933 Act or other applicable law and which are not exempt from the registration requirements of the 1933 Act. Except for the waiver of preemptive rights made at a shareholders meeting for shares to be issued under a public offering program approved by the shareholders and CNBV, preemptive rights cannot be waived in advance and cannot be represented by an instrument that is negotiable separately from the corresponding share.

### **Purchase of Shares by Interceramic**

At the direction of the Board, Interceramic may repurchase its shares on the Mexican Stock Exchange at any time at the prevailing market price. In accordance with Article 14 Bis 3, I, of the *Ley del Mercado de Valores* (the

“Mexican Securities Law”), Interceramic may acquire its own stock in transactions on the Mexican Stock Exchange at the then current market price without violating the prohibition contained in first paragraph of Article 134 of the *Ley General de Sociedades Mercantiles* (the “Mexican Companies Law”), if the repurchased shares are then applied in reduction of the shareholders equity or, as the case may be, in reduction of paid-in capital, in the event it is resolved to hold them as treasury shares, in which case shareholder approval of the repurchase shall not be required.

When the acquisition of Interceramic’s own shares is applied against paid-in capital, converting the shares into treasury shares shall be done by reducing paid-in capital by an amount equivalent to the “face value” of the shares. For this purpose, “face value” is equal to the quotient of the paid-in capital divided by the number of shares of Interceramic stock then issued and outstanding. The remaining balance of the repurchase cost of the shares shall be charged to a “Reserve for Repurchase of Own Stock” account. If the purchase price of the shares is less than their face value, paid-in capital must be reduced in an amount equivalent to the face value of the shares acquired.

When an acquisition of shares is not to be applied against paid-in capital, a special account called “Company’s Own Stock” shall be credited in an amount equivalent to the purchase price of the shares.

At the annual general ordinary shareholders meeting each year, the shareholders shall determine for the applicable fiscal year by resolution the maximum amount of money that shall be available for use by Interceramic for the repurchase of its own stock for the year, with the only limitation being that the amount to be determined for this purpose shall in no event exceed the total balance of the net income of Interceramic, including retained earnings. The Board is required to designate the responsible person or persons within Interceramic with the authority to make repurchases of Interceramic’s own stock in accordance with this policy.

While its own shares are owned by Interceramic, such shares can not be voted or otherwise represented at any shareholders meetings of any type for any purpose.

Shares held in the “Company’s Own Stock” account or as treasury shares may, notwithstanding the provisions established in the Mexican Companies Law, be resold by Interceramic and placed within the public market, in which event the corresponding increase in paid-in capital will not require the approval of either the Board or the shareholders. The amount received by Interceramic from resales of such shares shall be applied to (i) in the event the repurchase of the shares was applied against paid-in capital and conversion into treasury shares, increase the paid-in capital in an amount equivalent to the face value of the shares, restoring the “Reserve for Repurchase of Own Stock” with the remaining balance, if any, or, (ii) in the event the repurchase of such shares was not applied against paid-in capital, the “Company’s Own Stock” account shall be reduced in an amount equal to the amount received in respect of such shares, reducing the “Reserve for Repurchase of Own Stock” in the event the amount received by Interceramic was less than the amount paid by it for such shares at the time they were initially purchased. The amount of profit, if any, realized upon the resale of any such shares shall be maintained on the books of the Company in an account called “Stock Premium.”

In no event shall Interceramic be entitled to purchase its own stock if the acquisition of such stock would result in a reduction of the fixed portion of Interceramic’s paid-in capital.

The repurchase and subsequent resales of Interceramic’s own stock, the reports of repurchases and resales that must be presented before to the annual general ordinary shareholders meeting, the standards for the disclosure of financial information, and also the forms and terms on which these actions must be disclosed to the CNBV, to the Mexican Stock Exchange and to the public markets shall be governed by the terms of the *circulares* (“Regulations”) of the CNBV.

Unless a share repurchase is conducted through a tender offer, Interceramic’s directors, officers, statutory auditors and the secretary of the Board, and holders of ten percent or more of Interceramic’s outstanding shares, may not sell shares to, or purchase repurchased shares from Interceramic. Regulations under the Mexican Securities Law

require that if Interceramic decides to repurchase shares representing three percent or more of its share capital, the repurchase must be conducted by means of a public tender offer.

Companies or other entities controlled by Interceramic may not purchase, directly or indirectly, shares of Interceramic or shares of companies or entities that are shareholders of Interceramic.

### **Registration and Transfer**

All of the shares of Interceramic are evidenced by share certificates in registered form, with registered dividend coupons attached. Dividend coupons may only be presented for payment by the registered holders of the corresponding share. Shareholders of Interceramic may either hold their shares directly, in the form of physical certificates, or indirectly, in the form of book entries through institutions that have accounts with Indeval. Accounts may be maintained at Indeval by brokers, banks, other financial entities or other entities approved by the CNBV (“Indeval Participants”). Interceramic maintains a stock registry and only those persons listed in the stock registry and those holding physical certificates or certificates indicating ownership issued by Indeval and any relevant Indeval Participants, will be recognized as shareholders by Interceramic.

### **Shareholders’ Meetings and Voting Rights**

The holders of Series B Shares, voting at a general ordinary shareholders’ meeting, are entitled to elect all but four of the members of the Board and the corresponding alternate directors and to vote on any matter coming before shareholders at any general meeting of Interceramic’s shareholders.

The holders of Series D Shares, voting as a class, are entitled to vote on:

- the election of two members of the Board and the corresponding alternate directors;
- any corporate action that would prejudice the rights of the Series D Shares as a class; and
- the removal of the Series D Shares, the Limited Voting Units or the securities that represent them from listing on the Mexican Stock Exchange or any foreign stock exchange and cancellation from registration of those shares with RNVI.

The holders of Series L Shares, voting as a class, are entitled to vote on:

- the election of two members of the Board and the corresponding alternate directors;
- any corporate action that would prejudice the rights of the Series L Shares as a class; and
- the removal of the Series L Shares, the Limited Voting Units or the securities that represent them from listing on the Mexican Stock Exchange or any foreign stock exchange and cancellation from registration of those shares with RNVI.

Additionally, voting together as a single class with the holders of the Series B Shares, the holders of the Series D Shares and the Series L Shares are entitled to vote at an extraordinary general meeting on:

- transformation of Interceramic from one type of company to another;
- any merger of Interceramic, even if Interceramic is the surviving entity;
- extension of Interceramic’s existence beyond its prescribed duration of February 28, 2053;

- dissolution of Interceramic before February 28, 2053;
- a change of Interceramic's corporate purposes; and
- a change of Interceramic's nationality.

Under the Bylaws, holders of shares of any series are also entitled to vote as a class in a special meeting governed by the same rules that apply to extraordinary meetings on any action that would impair the rights of holders of shares of the effected series, and a holder of shares of the series would be entitled to judicial relief against any action taken without a vote under those circumstances.

General shareholders' meetings may be general ordinary meetings or general extraordinary meetings. General extraordinary meetings are those called to consider certain matters specified in Article 182 of the Mexican Companies Law and the Bylaws including, principally, amendments of the Bylaws, liquidation, merger and transformation from one form of company to another and increases and reductions of the fixed portion of the capital. In addition, the Bylaws require a general extraordinary meeting to consider the removal of Interceramic's shares from listing on the Mexican Stock Exchange or any foreign stock exchange and from registration of the shares with the RNVI. General ordinary meetings, which are held at least once a year, are called to consider all other matters including any acquisition representing an investment of more than 20 percent of Interceramic's shareholders' equity as set forth in its most recent balance sheet filed with the CNBV and any sale of a subsidiary controlled by Interceramic which represents more than 20 percent of Interceramic's shareholders' equity as set forth in its balance sheet. The Bylaws, however, provide for certain circumstances in which acquisitions may be approved by the Board alone.

Special meetings of holders of the Series D Shares and the Series L Shares are required to consider the removal of the Series D Shares or the Series L Shares, as applicable, or the Limited Voting Units from listing on the Mexican Stock Exchange or any foreign stock exchange and cancellation registration of the shares with the RNVI. All other matters on which holders of Series D Shares or Series L Shares are entitled to vote will be considered at an extraordinary general meeting. Holders of Series D Shares and Series L Shares are entitled to attend, but not to address, meetings of shareholders at which they are not entitled to vote.

A general ordinary meeting of the holders of Series B Shares must be held at least once each year within the first four months following the end of the preceding fiscal year to consider the approval of the financial statements of Interceramic and certain of its subsidiaries for the preceding fiscal year, to elect all of the directors entitled to be elected by the holders of the Series B Shares, to elect statutory auditors and members of any executive committee of the Board, to determine the compensation of all directors, statutory auditors or members of an executive committee, and to determine the allocation of the profits of the preceding year.

The quorum for a general ordinary meeting of the holders of the Series B Shares on first call is at least 50 percent of the Series B Shares, and action may be taken by a majority of the Series B Shares present. If a quorum is not available, a second meeting may be called at which action may be taken by a majority of the Series B Shares present, regardless of the number of shares represented at the meeting.

The quorum for a general extraordinary meeting at which holders of the Series B Shares, but not holders of Series D Shares or Series L Shares, are entitled to vote is at least 75 percent and at least 50 percent of all of the outstanding Series B Shares on first and successive calls, respectively, and action may be taken by a vote of at least 50 percent of the outstanding Series B Shares. With respect to general extraordinary meetings at which Series D Shares and/or the Series L Shares are entitled to vote, the quorum requirement is at least 75 percent and at least 50 percent of all shares entitled to vote on first and successive calls, respectively, and action may be taken by a vote of at least 50 percent of all of the stock entitled to vote.

At special meetings of the Series D Shares or the Series L Shares for the removal of Series D Shares, the Series L Shares, the Limited Voting Units or the securities that represent them, as the case may be, from listing on the Mexican Stock Exchange or a foreign stock exchange or cancellation of registration with the RNVI, the quorum requirement is at least 75 percent or at least 50 percent of the shares entitled to vote on first and successive calls, respectively, and action may be taken by the vote of at least 50 percent of the outstanding Series D Shares or Series L Shares. At special meetings of the Series D Shares and/or the Series L Shares on all other matters, the quorum requirement is at least 75 percent of all the applicable shares on the first call, and at least 50 percent on successive calls, and action may be taken by the vote of at least 50 percent of all outstanding Series D Shares or Series L Shares.

For a description of procedures for voting of the Series B Shares comprising the Common Units underlying the Common Unit ADRs, and for voting of the Series D Shares and the Series L Shares comprising the Limited Voting Units underlying the Limited Voting Unit ADRs, see “–Voting of American Depositary Shares” below.

Holders of 15 percent of Interceramic’s outstanding capital stock may have any shareholder action set aside by filing a complaint with a court of law within 15 days of close of the meeting at which the action was taken and showing that the challenged action violates Mexican law or the Bylaws. In addition, any holder of Interceramic’s capital stock may bring an action at any time within five years challenging any shareholder action. Relief under these provisions is only available to holders (i) who were entitled to vote on, or whose rights as shareholders were adversely affected by the challenged shareholder action and (ii) whose shares were not represented when the action was taken or, if represented, were voted against it.

Shareholders’ meetings may be called by the Board, the statutory auditors of Interceramic or a Mexican court. The Board or the statutory auditors are required to call a meeting of the shareholders at the written request of the holders of ten percent of the Series B Shares or, in the case of a meeting at which holders of Series D Shares and/or the Series L Shares would be entitled to vote with the Series B Shares, at the written request of the holders of ten percent of the outstanding Series B Shares, Series D Shares and Series L Shares combined. In the event that a meeting is not called within 15 days following the date of request, a Mexican court may require the meeting to be called. Notices of meetings and proposed agendas must be published in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Chihuahua at least 15 days prior to the meeting. Meetings at which holders of Series D Shares and/or Series L Shares are not entitled to vote may be held without any publication if 100 percent of the Series B Shares are represented. To be entitled to vote at a meeting, shareholders must deposit their shares with Interceramic’s Secretary at its office in the City of Chihuahua or any appointed registrar, or certificates evidencing a deposit with a Mexican or foreign banking institution or with a Mexican exchange broker. If entitled to attend the meeting, a shareholder may be represented by proxy. All meetings of Interceramic’s shareholders must be held in the City of Chihuahua. Holders of Interceramic’s shares do not have cumulative voting rights.

## **Dividends**

At each annual meeting of the holders of the Series B Shares, the Board submits the financial statements of Interceramic for the previous fiscal year, together with a financial report by the Board, to the holders of the Series B Shares for approval. The holders of the Series B Shares, once they have approved the financial statements, determine the allocation of Interceramic’s net profits for the preceding year. Holders of the Series B Shares are required by law to allocate at least five percent of the net profits to a legal reserve, which is not thereafter available for distribution until the amount of the legal reserve equals 20 percent of Interceramic’s historical capital stock (before effect of restatement). Thereafter, the shareholders may determine and allocate a certain percentage of net profits to any special reserve, including a reserve for open-market purchases of Interceramic’s shares. The remainder of net profits is available for distribution in the form of dividends to the shareholders. The Bylaws currently provide that, except to the extent of the Fixed Preference (as defined in the following paragraph), all shares outstanding and fully paid at the time a dividend is declared are entitled to share equally in any dividend. Shares which are only partially paid participate in a dividend in the same proportion that the shares have been paid at the time of the dividend.

Holders of each Series D Share, including Series D Shares comprising the Limited Voting Units underlying the Limited Voting Unit ADRs, are entitled to receive the Fixed Preference—an annual, cumulative dividend of five percent of the theoretical per share value of the Series D Shares as set forth in the Bylaws, or nominal Ps 0.025 per share, before any dividends are payable in respect of the Series B Shares and the Series L Shares. Following payment in full of the Fixed Preference, holders of Series B Shares and the Series L Shares are entitled to receive, if available, an amount per share equal to the Fixed Preference paid per Series D Share that year. Following payment in full of an amount equal to the Fixed Preference per Series D Share, Series B Share and Series L Share, the holders of the Series D Shares, the Series B Shares and the Series L Shares share equally on a per share basis, in any amounts remaining for distribution.

## **Liquidation**

Upon liquidation of Interceramic, one or more liquidators will be appointed to wind up its affairs. The Bylaws provide that, other than the Liquidation Preference payable with respect to the Series D Shares, all fully paid and outstanding shares of capital stock will be entitled to participate equally in any distribution upon liquidation. Shares which are only partially paid participate in a liquidating distribution in the proportion that they have been paid at the time of liquidation. Holders of Series D Shares are entitled to the Liquidation Preference equal to the sum of all accrued but unpaid Fixed Preference dividends and the theoretical per share value of the Series D Shares as set forth in the Bylaws, or nominal Ps 0.50 per share, before any distribution is made in respect of Interceramic's other capital stock. Following payment in full of any preferential amounts, holders of Series B Shares and Series L Shares will be entitled to receive, if available, an amount per share equal to the Liquidation Preference paid per Series D Share. Following payment in full at an amount equal to the Liquidation Preference per Series D Share, Series B Share and Series L Share, the holders of the Series D Shares, the Series B Shares and the Series L Shares will share equally, on a per share basis, in any remaining amounts payable in respect to Interceramic's capital stock, regardless of the date of liquidation.

Upon the liquidation of Interceramic, holders of fully paid shares are entitled to receive pro rata any proceeds remaining after the payment of Interceramic's debts and taxes and the expenses of the liquidation in the manner described in the preceding paragraph; holders of shares that have not been paid in full will only be entitled to liquidation proceeds in proportion to their paid-in amount.

## **Variable Capital and Withdrawal Rights**

Interceramic's capital stock includes a variable capital portion, which can at a maximum equal ten times the fixed capital portion. An aggregate of Ps 8.0 million has been allocated on the records of Interceramic to fixed capital. The fixed portion of Interceramic's capital stock cannot be withdrawn.

The outstanding variable portion of Interceramic's capital stock may be fully or partially withdrawn by the shareholders. A shareholder who wishes to effect a total or partial withdrawal of the variable portion of its shares must notify Interceramic in writing pursuant to the Bylaws. If notice of withdrawal is received prior to the first day of the last quarter of the fiscal year, the withdrawal will be effective at the end of the fiscal year in which the notice is given. Otherwise, the withdrawal will become effective at the end of the following fiscal year. Upon a shareholder's election to withdraw its variable capital as described above, the share capital of Interceramic is reduced.

Reimbursement of withdrawn shares is at the lower of 95 percent of the average price per share quoted on the Mexican Stock Exchange during the 30 days on which the shares were quoted prior to the date on which the withdrawal becomes effective or the book value per share as calculated from Interceramic's financial statements (as approved at the annual ordinary shareholders' meeting) for the fiscal year at the end of which the withdrawal becomes effective. A shareholder that has exercised its withdrawal rights can request reimbursement by Interceramic on the day following the general ordinary shareholders' meeting at which the financial statements referred to above are approved.

Because the fixed portion of capital cannot be withdrawn, requests for withdrawals are satisfied only to the extent of the available variable capital and in the order in which they are received; requests which are received simultaneously are fulfilled pro rata to the extent of the available variable capital.

Any variable portion of Interceramic's capital stock may be increased or decreased by resolution of shareholders at a general ordinary shareholders' meeting. Increases and decreases in the capital stock must be recorded in Interceramic's book of capital variations.

### **Notification in the Event of Certain Securities Acquisitions**

The Bylaws provide that in the event a shareholder of Interceramic, either acting singly or collectively with other persons, acquires in excess of 15 percent of the Series B Shares outstanding, whether as comprising Common Units prior to the Separation Date or trading separately thereafter, the person is required to make a filing with Interceramic, describing itself and the persons in the applicable group. Failure to make the filing will result in the inability of the applicable persons to exercise voting rights with respect to Series B Shares owned by them in excess of 15 percent of the then outstanding Series B Shares.

### **Stated Duration of Interceramic**

The duration of Interceramic is through February 28, 2053.

### **Appraisal Rights**

If and when the shareholders approve a change of corporate purpose, change of nationality of the corporation or transformation from one type of company to another, any shareholder who has voted against a change in the corporate purpose has the right to withdraw from Interceramic and receive the book value (as set forth in the latest balance sheet approved by the general ordinary shareholders' meeting) attributable to the shares, as long as the shareholder makes its request during the 15-day period following the adjournment of the meeting at which the change was approved.

### **Actions Against Directors**

Pursuant to Article 161 of the Mexican Companies Law, civil actions against directors may be initiated by resolution passed at a general ordinary shareholders' meeting. In the event the shareholders decide to bring an action, the directors against whom the action is to be brought immediately cease to be directors. Additionally, shareholders representing not less than 15 percent of the outstanding shares may directly bring an action against directors as long as the shareholders did not vote against bringing the action at the relevant shareholders' meeting and the claim covers all the damages alleged to have been caused to Interceramic and not only the portion corresponding to those shareholders. Any recovery of damages with respect to the action will be for the benefit of Interceramic and not for the shareholders bringing the action.

### **Shareholders' Conflicts of Interest**

Pursuant to the Mexican Companies Law, any shareholder that has a direct or indirect conflict of interest with respect to a transaction must abstain from voting with respect to that transaction at the relevant shareholders' meeting. A shareholder that votes on a transaction in which its interest conflicts with that of Interceramic may be liable for damages in the event the relevant transaction would not have been approved without the shareholder's vote.

### **Restriction on Foreign Investment**

Ownership by non-Mexicans of shares of Mexican enterprises is regulated by the *Ley de Inversión Extranjera* (as amended, the “Foreign Investment Law”) and the *Reglamento de la Ley para Promover la Inversión Mexicana y Regular la Inversión Extranjera* (as amended, the “Foreign Investment Regulations”). The *Comisión Nacional de Inversiones Extranjeras* (the “Foreign Investment Commission”) is responsible for the administration of the Foreign Investment Law and the Foreign Investment Regulations.

The Foreign Investment Law reserves certain economic activities exclusively for the Mexican government, certain other activities exclusively for Mexican individuals or Mexican corporations and limits the participation of non-Mexican investors to certain percentages in regard to enterprises engaged in certain activities specified in the Foreign Investment Law. Foreign investors may freely participate in up to 100 percent of the capital stock of Mexican companies or entities except for existing companies engaged in specified reserved activities as referred to above. Although Interceramic is not engaged in an industry in which foreign ownership is restricted, the Foreign Investment Law requires that Interceramic register any foreign owner of its shares, or the depositary with respect to ADRs representing its shares, with the National Registry of Foreign Investment maintained by the Ministry of Commerce and Industrial Development of Mexico. A foreign owner of shares that has not been registered is not entitled to vote or to receive dividends with respect to its unregistered shares. Interceramic has registered the Depositary for this purposes with respect to the ADRs.

Neither the Series B Shares, the Series D Shares nor the Series L Shares have restrictions on ownership by non-Mexican nationals.

In addition, as required by Mexican law, the Bylaws provide that non-Mexican shareholders of Interceramic formally agree with the Foreign Affairs Ministry to be considered as Mexicans with respect to the shares that they acquire or hold as well as to the property, rights, concessions, participation or interests owned by Interceramic or to the rights and obligations derived from any agreements Interceramic has with the Mexican Government and not to invoke the protection of their own governments. If a shareholder should invoke governmental protection in violation of its agreement, its shares would be forfeited to the Mexican government. In the opinion of Abogados Mesta y Asociados, S.C., Mexican counsel to Interceramic, under this provision a non-Mexican shareholder is not deemed to have waived any other rights it may have, including any rights under the United States securities laws, with respect to its investment in Interceramic.

### **Voting of American Depositary Shares**

As the holder of the Units underlying the ADRs, the Depositary will receive notice of meetings of Interceramic’s shareholders. As soon as practicable after the receipt by the Depositary of notice of any meeting of holders of the Series B Shares, the Series D Shares or the Series L Shares, the Depositary will mail or cause to be mailed the information contained in the notice of meeting to all holders of record of the applicable ADRs on the applicable record date (the “Holders”). Holders at the close of business a date specified by the Depositary, which shall be no fewer than eight business days prior to the relevant shareholders’ meeting, may (unless otherwise restricted by law or the terms of the Deposit Agreement or the applicable securities) instruct the Depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights, if any, pertaining to the applicable shares comprising the Units represented by their respective ADRs. The Depositary will, if practicable, vote the applicable shares in accordance with the written instructions of Holders.

Although Holders of ADRs are not entitled to attend general meetings of the holders of the Series B Shares, the Series D Shares or the Series L Shares, all Holders, regardless of nationality, are entitled to exercise all voting rights applicable to the shares comprising the Units represented by their ADRs. Interceramic and the Depositary will use their reasonable efforts to implement arrangements to enable Holders to be able to vote the shares comprising the Units attributable to the ADRs.

If the Depositary does not receive timely instructions from a Holder of ADRs regarding the voting of the shares comprising their Units on or before the date established by the Depositary for that purpose, the Depositary shall



take action to cause the shares to be counted for the purposes of satisfying applicable quorum requirements, but shares for which timely instructions to vote are not received will not be voted by the Depositary.

Further information regarding the Deposit Agreement and the rights and obligations of Interceramic, the Depositary and the holders of ADRs thereunder may be found in Interceramic's Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form F-3, filed with the SEC on November 2, 2000, Registration No. 333-12776.

### ***C. Material Contracts***

Other than the American Standard Agreement and the Kohler Agreement, and the Credit Agreement, the Company has not entered into any contracts that could be considered material to the Company in the past two fiscal years. See "Item 4—Information on the Company—B. Business Overview—The American Standard Agreement" and "—The Kohler Agreement" and "Item 5—Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—B. Liquidity and Capital Resources" above.

### ***D. Exchange Controls***

Mexico abolished its exchange control system on November 11, 1991. *Banco de México*, the Mexican central bank ("Banco de México"), has in recent years consistently has made foreign currency available to Mexican private sector entities (such as the Company) to meet their foreign currency obligations. Nevertheless, in the event of renewed shortages of foreign currency, there can be no assurance that Banco de México would continue to make foreign currency available to private sector companies or that foreign currency needed by the Company to service foreign currency obligations could be purchased in the open market without substantial additional cost.

Neither the Mexican government directly nor Banco de México impose any restrictions on the ability of Interceramic to make dividend, interest or other payments to holders of Interceramic's securities.

### ***E. Taxation***

#### **United States Taxes**

##### ***General***

The following is a summary of the material United States federal income tax consequences of the ownership and sale of Units and ADRs, in each case, except as otherwise noted, by a US Holder (as defined below). The tax treatment of a holder may vary depending upon the particular situation of the holder. The following summary of United States federal income tax consequences is limited to holders who hold Units as "capital assets," within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and whose "functional currency," within the meaning of Code Section 985, is the Dollar. Certain holders (including without limitation insurance companies, tax-exempt organizations, financial institutions, persons subject to the alternative minimum tax, holders that are not US Holders, broker-dealers and beneficial holders of five percent or more of the voting power or value of the shares of Interceramic) may be subject to special rules not discussed below. The discussion below also does not address the effect of any United States state or local tax law on a holder. Additionally, the discussion is based upon United States federal income tax law as currently in effect, which is subject to change. As used herein, the term "US Holder" means any beneficial or record holder who is either an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States, a partnership, corporation or other entity organized in or under the laws of the United States or any state thereof, or an estate or trust that is subject to United States federal income taxation without regard to the source of its income.

##### ***Ownership and Sale of Units and ADRs***

For United States federal income tax purposes, US Holders of Units and ADRs will be treated as the owners of the Common Units or Limited Voting Units and the Series B Shares or the Series D Shares and the Series L Shares comprising the Common Units and the Limited Voting Units, respectively.

#### *Taxation of Dividends and Stock Distributions*

For tax years ending before January 1, 2003, dividends paid out of current or accumulated earnings and profits with respect to Units will be includible in the gross income of a US Holder as ordinary income when the dividends are received by the custodian for the Units underlying the ADRs and the CU ADRs in the United States (the “Custodian”) and will not be eligible for any dividends received deduction otherwise allowable to corporations under Code Section 243. Such dividends paid in Pesos will be includible in the income of a US Holder in a Dollar amount calculated by reference to the exchange rate in effect on the day the Pesos are received by the Custodian. US Holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the treatment of any foreign currency gain or loss on any Pesos received which are not converted into Dollars on the day the Pesos are received by the Custodian. Dividends generally will constitute foreign source “passive income” (or in the case of certain holders, “financial services income”) for United States foreign tax credit purposes. For tax years beginning after December 31, 2002 and ending prior to January 1, 2009, dividends payable by certain corporations, including the Company, will be taxed at capital gains rates, generally 15 percent for most US Holders, while US Holders in the ten percent and 15 percent tax brackets are taxed on capital gains at a rate of five percent.

Amounts withheld in respect of Mexican taxes on dividends will, subject to certain generally applicable limitations and exceptions, be eligible for the foreign tax credit available under the Code or, at the election of the US Holder, be deductible in computing taxable income. Under recent amendments to the Code, foreign tax credits may not be available for withholding taxes attributable to dividends paid in respect of securities held for short periods of time or for certain short-term or hedged positions taken in respect of securities.

Distributions of additional shares to US Holders with respect to the Units (and accompanying distributions with respect to ADRs) that are made as part of a pro rata distribution to all shareholders of the Company generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax.

A holder of Units or ADRs that is, with respect to the United States, not a US Holder (a “Non-US Holder”) will not be subject to United States federal income or withholding tax on dividends paid with respect to the Units (or with respect to ADRs), unless such income is effectively connected with the conduct by the holder of a trade or business in the United States.

#### *Taxation of Capital Gains*

Gain or loss realized by a US Holder on the sale or other taxable disposition of Units or ADRs will be subject to US federal income taxation as capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between such holder’s basis in the Units or ADRs and the amount realized on the sale or other disposition. Capital gains and losses recognized on a sale or other disposition of Units or ADRs by a US Holder generally will be treated as United States source income. Deposits and withdrawals of Units for ADRs by US Holders will not be subject to United States federal income tax.

A Non-US holder of Units or ADRs will not be subject to United States federal income or withholding tax on gains realized on the sale of Units or ADRs unless (i) such gain is effectively connected with the conduct by the holder of a trade or business in the United States or (ii) in the case of gain realized by an individual holder, the holder is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of the sale and certain other conditions are met.

### **Mexican Taxes**

#### *General*

The following is a summary of certain anticipated Mexican tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of Units and ADRs, in each case, by a person that is not a resident of Mexico, as defined below.

The summary is based upon the tax laws of Mexico as in effect on the date hereof, which are subject to change. Holders should consult their own tax advisors as to United States, Mexican or other tax consequences of the ownership and disposition of Units and ADRs.

An income tax treaty between the United States and Mexico took effect beginning January 1, 1994. Except as described below under “—Taxation of Capital Gains,” the treaty does not have any material effect on the Mexican tax consequences described herein. Holders should consult with their tax advisors as to their entitlement to benefits afforded by the tax treaty.

For purposes of Mexican taxation, a natural person is a resident of Mexico if it has established its home in Mexico, unless it has resided in another country for more than 183 calendar days during a year and can demonstrate that he had become a resident of that country for tax purposes, and a legal entity is a resident of Mexico if and to the extent that it has business activities in Mexico. A Mexican citizen or a legal entity with its corporate domicile in Mexico and established under Mexican law is presumed to be a resident of Mexico unless such person or entity can demonstrate otherwise. If a legal entity has a permanent establishment or fixed base in Mexico, such permanent establishment or fixed base shall be required to pay taxes in Mexico in accordance with relevant tax provisions.

#### *Taxation of Dividends*

Effective January 1, 2000, dividends, either in cash or in any other form, paid with respect to the Units will be subject to the Mexican corporate tax, which the Company will be required to pay at a rate of 35 percent of 1.5385 times the amount of the dividend, if the dividend is not paid from earnings which have already been taxed.

#### *Taxation of Capital Gains*

The sale or other disposition of ADRs will not be subject to Mexican tax. Deposits and withdrawals of ADRs will not give rise to Mexican tax or transfer duties.

Gains realized on the sale or other disposition of Units will not be subject to any Mexican tax if the sale is carried out through the Mexican Stock Exchange or any other recognized securities market, as determined by Mexican tax authorities, including the NYSE. Gains realized on sales or other dispositions of Units made in other circumstances would be subject to Mexican income tax. Under the terms of the United States-Mexico income tax treaty, gains of a (less than 25 percent) US Holder eligible for benefits under the treaty on disposition of Units will not generally be subject to Mexican tax, provided they are not attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base of such US Holder in Mexico. Gains of a Non-US Holder eligible for benefits under a treaty to which Mexico is a party may be exempt, in whole or in part, from Mexican tax under the applicable treaty. Holders should consult with their tax advisors to determine their entitlement to benefits accorded under any applicable tax treaty.

#### *Other Mexican Taxes*

There are no inheritance or succession taxes applicable to the ownership, transfer or disposition of Units or ADRs. There are no Mexican stamp, issuer, registration or similar taxes or duties payable by holders of Units or ADRs.

#### ***F. Dividends and Paying Agents***

Not applicable.

***G. Statement by Experts***

Not applicable.

***H. Documents on Display***

Copies of documents referenced in this Annual Report may be obtained from Jesús Olivás Corral at the Company's office in Mexico at Ave. Carlos Pacheco 7200, Chihuahua, Chihuahua, México, telephone number 011.52.614.429.1161, or from Mark E. Mendel, Esq., Mendel • Blumenfeld, LLP, 5809 Acacia Circle, El Paso, Texas 79912, telephone number 915.587.7878.

***I. Subsidiary Information***

Not applicable.

**ITEM 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk**

The Company is exposed to market risk from changes in currency exchange rates and interest rates, in addition to the market risk inherent to material operations in economies of developing countries such as Mexico. The Company has identified its major sources of market risk, and in part chose to cause all of its indebtedness to be denominated in Dollars as a result. The Company is also exposed to market risk from changes in the price of natural gas, a material cost of production for the Company that historically has been subject to significant and rapid swings in price. In 2001, the Company entered into hedge agreements for the price of natural gas in order to reduce some of the market risk with respect to natural gas prices, but these agreements terminated on December 31, 2003, and the Company is currently paying for natural gas at applicable market prices.

**Interest Rate Risk**

Interest rate risk exists principally with respect to the Company's indebtedness that bears interest at floating rates. At December 31, 2003, the Company had outstanding approximately US \$120.9 million of indebtedness, approximately 0.14 percent of which bore interest at fixed interest rates and approximately 99.86 percent of which bore interest at floating rates of interest. The interest rate on all of the Company's variable rate debt is determined by reference to LIBOR. Fundamental to variable rate obligations is the risk that interest rates will increase, particularly if rates increase without corresponding economic and price growth in the Company's operations.

**Foreign Currency Risk**

The Company's principal exchange rate risk involves changes in the value of the Peso relative to the Dollar. Decreases in the value of the Peso relative to the Dollar will result in foreign exchange losses as the aggregate amount in Pesos of the Company's Dollar denominated indebtedness increases. Further, decreases in the Peso with respect to the Dollar increase the cost in Pesos of Dollar denominated expenses, including debt service obligations and amounts due third party vendors and suppliers.

During the course of 2003, the Peso weakened considerably in value against the Dollar, going from Ps 10.39 to US \$1.00 at December 31, 2002 to Ps 11.235 to US \$1.00 at December 31, 2003. During the course of 2004, the Peso has continued to lose value against the Dollar, standing at Ps 11.423 to US \$1.00 at June 4, 2004.

At December 31, 2003 (i) approximately 43.9 percent of the Company's consolidated revenues were denominated in Dollars; (ii) approximately 50.3 percent of the Company's total assets were denominated in Dollars; (iii) all of the Company's indebtedness was denominated in Dollars; (iv) approximately 69.0 percent of the Company's total liabilities were denominated in Dollars; and (v) roughly half of the Company's consolidated costs and operating

expenses were denominated in Dollars. From an operating perspective, the Company believes that foreign exchange risk is substantially mitigated by the significant portion of its revenues that are denominated in Dollars, although weakening of the Peso against the Dollar can result and has in the past resulted in significant foreign exchange losses.

### **Commodity Price Risk**

In the Company's Mexican operations, the cost of natural gas constituted approximately 8.01 percent of the cost of production in 2003, while in the United States natural gas purchases accounted for approximately 8.14 of the cost of production. The price of natural gas is subject to significant variations during the course of a year. For example, at January 1, 2000 the average price for natural gas to the Company was US \$9.81 per MMBtu, on June 1, 2001 the same quantity of natural gas cost US \$2.35 and at year end, the price stood at US \$2.35 per MMBtu. As increases in natural gas prices can rarely be offset by correspondingly higher prices for the Company's products, unusually large increases or decreases in the price of natural gas can have a significant impact on the Company's operating profitability.

To protect the Company against some of the market risk related to natural gas prices, in 2001 the Company entered into a fixed price contract for all of its natural gas requirements in Mexico with *Petróleos Mexicanos* ("Pemex"), the Mexican state oil and gas company, locking in the price of US \$4.00 per MMBtu, plus an amount equal to the difference between certain market prices of United States gas companies. This arrangement was in effect until December 2003. The price for natural gas during the first half of 2004 has varied widely, from US \$5.40 per MMBtu in January down to US \$4.53 in March, increasing back up to US \$5.32 in May. Given the rising energy prices and instability in the Middle East, prices are expected to remain volatile in the near future.

### **Sensitivity Analysis Disclosure—2003**

#### *Interest Rates*

A hypothetical, instantaneous and unfavorable change of 250 basis points in the interest rate applicable to the Company's variable rate indebtedness at December 31, 2003 would have resulted in additional interest expense of approximately US \$3.0 million.

#### *Exchange Rates*

A hypothetical, instantaneous and unfavorable ten percent change in currency exchange rate of the Peso relative to the Dollar at the beginning of 2003 would have resulted in additional interest expense for the year of approximately Ps 8.0 million, reflecting the increased cost in Pesos of servicing the Company's Dollar denominated indebtedness. Such a change would have also resulted in an estimated additional foreign exchange loss of approximately Ps 9.2 million, reflecting the increased value in Pesos of the Company's Dollar denominated indebtedness.

#### *Natural Gas Prices*

A hypothetical, instantaneous and unfavorable ten percent change in the price of natural gas at the beginning of 2003 would not have resulted in any additional natural gas expense to the Company for the year given the Company's fixed price contract with Pemex. In the event, during the course of 2003, the price of natural gas actually increased, with the result that for a large part of 2003 the Company was paying less than the market price under its contract with Pemex.

### **Sensitivity Analysis Disclosure—2002**

#### *Interest Rates*

A hypothetical, instantaneous and unfavorable change of 250 basis points in the interest rate applicable to the Company's variable rate indebtedness at December 31, 2002 would have resulted in additional interest expense of approximately US \$2.9 million.

*Exchange Rates*

A hypothetical, instantaneous and unfavorable ten percent change in currency exchange rate of the Peso relative to the Dollar at the beginning of 2002 would have resulted in additional interest expense for the year of approximately Ps 11.5 million, reflecting the increased cost in Pesos of servicing the Company's Dollar denominated indebtedness. Such a change would have also resulted in an estimated additional foreign exchange loss of Ps 11.6 million, reflecting the increased value in Pesos of the Company's Dollar denominated indebtedness.

*Natural Gas Prices*

A hypothetical, instantaneous and unfavorable ten percent change in the price of natural gas at the beginning of 2002 would not have resulted in additional natural gas expense to the Company for the year given the Company's fixed price contract with Pemex. In the event, during the course of 2002 the price of natural gas actually decreased substantially, with the result that for a large part of 2002 the Company was paying substantially more than the market price under its contract with Pemex.

**ITEM 12. Description of Securities Other Than Equity Securities**

Not applicable.

**PART II**

**ITEM 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies**

There have been no defaults by the Company under any of its financing arrangements, nor has there been any dividend arrearages or any other material delinquency.

**ITEM 14. Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds**

There have been no modifications to the rights of any security holders since the date of the Company's last Annual Report on Form 20-F. There are no reports with respect to use of proceeds applicable to the Company.

**ITEM 15. Controls and Procedures**

The Company has established and maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that material information relating to Interceramic and its subsidiaries required to be disclosed in the reports that it files or submits under the 1934 Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to the Company's management, including its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Within the 90 days prior to the filing date of this Annual Report, the Company carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of disclosure controls and procedures. Based on that evaluation of these disclosure controls and procedures, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer

concluded that the Company's disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of the date of such evaluation.

The Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer have also concluded that there were no significant changes in the Company's internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect the internal controls subsequent to the date that Interceramic completed its evaluation, including any corrective actions with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses.

**ITEM 16A. Audit Committee Financial Expert**

The Company has an "audit committee financial expert," within the meaning of Form 20-F under the 1934 Act, serving on the Audit Committee. The person is Humberto Valles Hernandez, who qualifies as "independent," within the meaning of Rule 10A-3 under the 1934 Act.

**ITEM 16B. Code of Ethics**

The Company has adopted a code of ethics (the "Code") that applies to all of its officers, a copy of which is included as an Exhibit to this Annual Report.

**ITEM 16C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

**Audit Fees**

The aggregate fees billed for 2002 and 2003 for professional services rendered by the principal accountant for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements or for services that are normally provided by the accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for those fiscal years were Ps 2,472 and Ps 2,830, respectively.

**Audit-Related Fees**

The aggregate fees billed for 2002 and 2003 for professional services rendered by the principal accountant for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company's annual financial statements not disclosed above were Ps 310 and Ps 328, respectively. The services rendered in this regard included review of the Company's annual reports on Form 20-F.

**Tax Fees**

The aggregate fees billed for 2002 and 2003 for professional services rendered by the principal accountant for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning were Ps 27 and Ps 350, respectively.

**Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies**

The engagement of the Company's independent auditors for each fiscal year, as well as the amount of audit fees, audit-related fees and tax fees of the auditors, are all subject to the prior recommendation of the Audit Committee to the Board. Pursuant to this policy, which is designed to assure that such engagements do not impair the independence of the auditors, the Audit Committee annually recommends to the Board a catalog of specific audit and non-audit services in the categories of audit service, audit-related service, tax services and other services that may be performed by the Company's independent accountants and the maximum fees that the Audit Committee recommends be paid as compensation for each service in those categories. Any proposed services exceeding the maximum recommended fees require specific analysis and further recommendation by the Audit Committee.

**PART III**

**ITEM 17. Financial Statements**

The Company has responded to Item 18 in lieu of responding to this Item.

**ITEM 18. Financial Statements**

See Item 19(a) for a list of the Financial Statements filed under this Item.

**ITEM 19. Exhibits**

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(a) *List of Financial Statements:*

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<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity of the Company and subsidiaries for each of the three years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003</u> . . . . .	F-6
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<u>Consolidated Statements of Changes in Financial Position of the Company and subsidiaries for each of the three years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003</u> . . . . .	F-8
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<u>Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company and subsidiaries</u> . . . .	F-10
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(b) *Financial Statement Schedules:*

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(c) <u>Consent of Independent Auditors</u> . . . . .	C-1
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(d) Code of Ethics .....D-1

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 20-F and has duly caused this Annual Report on Form 20-F to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

June 30, 2004.

CERAMICA, S.A. de C.V.

INTERNACIONAL DE

Corral

By: Jesús Olivas

Jesús Olivas Corral

Chief Financial Officer

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**CERTIFICATIONS**

I, Víctor D. Almeida García, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 20-F of the Registrant;
2. Based on my knowledge, this Annual Report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this Annual Report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this Annual Report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this Annual Report;
4. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in 1934 Act Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14) for the Registrant and have:
  - a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures to ensure that material information relating to the Registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the

period in which this Annual Report is being prepared;

b. evaluated the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as of a date within 90 days prior to the filing date of this Annual Report (the "Evaluation Date"); and

c. presented in this Annual Report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures based on our evaluation as of the Evaluation Date;

5. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation, to the Registrant's auditors and the audit committee of Registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):

a. all significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls which could adversely affect the Registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data and have identified for the Registrant's auditors any material weaknesses in internal controls; and

b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Registrant's internal controls; and

6. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I have indicated in this Annual Report whether or not there were significant changes in internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect internal controls subsequent to the date of our most recent evaluation, including any corrective actions with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses.

**DATED: June 30, 2004.**

Víctor D. Almeida García

Víctor D. Almeida García, President, Chief

Executive Officer and Director

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I, Jesús Olivas Corral, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Annual Report on Form 20-F of the Registrant;

2. Based on my knowledge, this Annual Report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this Annual Report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this Annual Report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this Annual Report;

4. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in 1934 Act Rules 13a-14 and 15d-14) for the Registrant and have:

a. designed such disclosure controls and procedures to ensure that material information relating to the Registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this Annual Report is being prepared;

b. evaluated the effectiveness of the Registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as of a date within 90 days prior to the filing date of this Annual Report (the "Evaluation Date"); and

c. presented in this Annual Report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures based on our evaluation as of the Evaluation Date;

5. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation, to the Registrant's auditors and the audit committee of Registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent function):

a. all significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls which could adversely affect the Registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial data and have identified for the Registrant's auditors any material weaknesses in internal controls; and

b. any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Registrant's internal controls; and

6. The Registrant's other certifying officer and I have indicated in this Annual Report whether or not there were significant changes in internal controls or in other factors that could significantly affect internal controls subsequent to the date of our most recent evaluation, including any corrective actions with regard to significant deficiencies and material weaknesses.

**DATED: June 30, 2004.**

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Jesús Olivas Corral

Jesús Olivas Corral, Executive Vice President

and Chief Financial Officer

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**Certification Pursuant to 18.U.S.C. Section 1350**

**As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V. (the "Company") on Form 20-F for the periods ending December 31, 2003 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date

hereof (the "Annual Report"), I the undersigned, being the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

1. The Annual Report fully complies with the requirements of sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the 1934 Act; and

2. The information contained in the Annual Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

**DATED: June 30, 2004.**

Víctor D. Almeida García

Víctor D. Almeida García, President, Chief

Executive Officer and Director

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**Certification Pursuant to 18.U.S.C. Section 1350**

**As Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

In connection with the Annual Report of Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V. (the "Company") on Form 20-F for the periods ending December 31, 2003 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Annual Report"), I the undersigned, being the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

1. The Annual Report fully complies with the requirements of sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the 1934 Act; and

2. The information contained in the Annual Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

**DATED: June 30, 2004.**

Jesús Olivas Corral

Jesús Olivas Corral, Executive Vice President

and Chief Financial Officer

**EXHIBITS**

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.  
AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2003

AND

FOR THE YEARS ENDED

DECEMBER 31, 2001, 2002 AND 2003

WITH REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.  
AND SUBSIDIARIES  
Consolidated Financial Statements

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

To the Stockholders of

Internacional de Ceramica, S.A. de C.V.

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Internacional de Ceramica, S.A. de C.V. and Subsidiaries as of December 31, 2002 and 2003, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in stockholders' equity and changes in financial position for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in Mexico and the Standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Such standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as

evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Internacional de Ceramica, S.A. de C.V. and subsidiaries at December 31, 2002 and 2003, and the consolidated results of operations, and changes in financial position for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in Mexico, which differ in certain respects with United States generally accepted accounting principals (see Note 13 to the accompanying consolidated financial statements).

C.P.C. José Antonio Reyes Cedeño

Mancera, S.C.

A Member Practice of Ernst & Young Global

Chihuahua, Chih., Mexico

February 9, 2004

[Except for Note 12, which is as of March 31, 2004]

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003)

	2002	December 31, 2003	2003
			Thousands of U.S. dollars





	2002	December 31, 2003	2003
			Thousands of U.S. dollars
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities:</b>			
Notes payable to banks	Ps. 77,688	Ps. 180,144	\$ 16,034
Current portion of long-term debt	201,248	205,825	18,320
Accounts payable to suppliers	303,113	257,476	22,917
Due to related parties	19,584	8,214	731
Accrued expenses	135,743	130,236	11,592
Income tax and employee profit sharing	7,260	4,706	419
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>744,636</b>	<b>786,601</b>	<b>70,013</b>
<b>Long-term debt</b>			
Long-term debt	1,012,667	972,419	86,552
Labor obligations	4,698	5,627	501
Deferred income taxes	346,174	442,623	39,397
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,108,175</b>	<b>2,207,270</b>	<b>196,463</b>
<b>Stockholders' equity</b>			
Common stock	724,810	720,190	64,102
Premium on common stock	1,259,883	1,259,883	112,139
Stock repurchase reserve	182,426	133,753	11,905
Retained earnings	293,229	325,446	28,967
Cumulative comprehensive income (loss)	( 1,511,488)	( 1,441,512)	( 128,305)
Majority stockholders' equity	948,860	997,760	88,808
Minority stockholders' equity	214,408	243,638	21,686
<b>Total stockholders' equity</b>	<b>1,163,268</b>	<b>1,241,398</b>	<b>110,494</b>
<b>Total liabilities and stockholders' equity</b>			
	Ps. 3,271,443	Ps. 3,448,668	\$ 306,957

## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

## AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Consolidated Statements of Income

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003,

except for per Unit amounts)

	Years ended December 31,			
	2001	2002	2003	2003
	Thousands of			
	<i>U.S. dollars</i>			
Net sales	Ps. 3,174,154	Ps. 3,267,385	<b>Ps. 3,424,926</b>	<b>\$ 304,844</b>
Cost of sales	( 1,993,310)	( 2,058,976)	<b>( 2,236,376)</b>	<b>( 199,054)</b>
Gross profit	1,180,844	1,208,409	<b>1,188,550</b>	<b>105,790</b>
Selling and administrative expenses	( 819,259)	( 898,570)	<b>( 959,388)</b>	<b>( 85,392)</b>
Operating income	361,585	309,839	<b>229,162</b>	<b>20,398</b>
Comprehensive financing cost:				
Interest income	6,532	7,986	<b>8,286</b>	<b>738</b>
Interest expense	( 148,246)	( 114,802)	<b>( 79,854)</b>	<b>( 7,108)</b>
Foreign exchange (loss) gain, net	52,760	( 115,770)	<b>( 91,527)</b>	<b>( 8,147)</b>
Gain on net monetary position	62,288	54,320	<b>51,172</b>	<b>4,555</b>
	( 26,666)	( 168,266)	<b>( 111,923)</b>	<b>( 9,962)</b>
Other expense, net	( 3,932)	( 13,280)	<b>( 8,202)</b>	<b>( 730)</b>
Write-off of assets	( 48,152)	-	-	-
Income before provision for income tax and employee profit sharing	282,835	128,293	<b>109,037</b>	<b>9,706</b>
Income and asset tax	( 50,014)	( 11,828)	<b>( 46,831)</b>	<b>( 4,169)</b>

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Employee profit sharing	( 3,701)	( 3,798)	-	-
Net income	229,120	112,667	<b>62,206</b>	<b>5,537</b>
Minority net income	24,940	19,660	<b>29,989</b>	<b>2,669</b>
Net income of majority stockholders	Ps. 204,180	Ps. 93,007	<b>Ps. 32,217</b>	<b>\$ 2,868</b>
Weighted average number of Units outstanding ("Ceramic UB" and "Ceramic ULD" outstanding) (in thousands)	- - 57,928	- - 57,184	- - 49,555	- - 49,555
Net income per Unit	Ps. 3.52	Ps. 1.63	<b>Ps. 0.65</b>	<b>\$ 0.06</b>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Stockholders' Equity

(Thousands of Constant Mexican pesos as of December 31, 2003)

	Common Stock	Premium on common stock	Stock Repurchase Reserve	Retained Earnings	Cumulative comprehensive income (loss) ( Note 8 )	Comprehensive Income	Majority stockholders' equity	Minority stockholders' equity	st
<b>Balance at December 31, 2000</b>	<b>Ps. 730,103</b>	<b>Ps. 1,259,883</b>	<b>Ps. 28,001</b>	<b>Ps. 207,911</b>	<b>Ps. (1,455,971)</b>		<b>Ps. 769,927</b>	<b>Ps. 219,110</b>	
Minority reduction of capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(16,365)	
Minority cash dividend	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(7,402)	
Comprehensive income (loss):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net income	-	-	-	204,180	-	204,180	204,180	24,940	
	-	-	-	-	(62,946)	(62,946)	(62,946)	(7,847)	

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Result from holding nonmonetary assets									
Result from translation of foreign subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	(27,876)	(27,876)	(27,876)	-	
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	Ps. 113,358	-	-	
<b>Balance at December 31, 2001</b>	Ps. 730,103	Ps. 1,259,883	Ps. 28,001	Ps. 412,091	Ps. ( 1,546,793)		Ps. 883,285	Ps. 212,436	P
Increase of stock repurchase reserve	-	-	211,869	(211,869)	-	-	-	-	
Repurchase of common stock	(5,293)	-	(57,444)	-	-	-	(62,737)	-	
Minority cash dividend	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(16,021)	
Comprehensive income (loss):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net income	-	-	-	93,007	-	93,007	93,007	19,659	
Result from holding nonmonetary assets	-	-	-	-	8,977	8,977	8,977	(1,666)	
Result from translation of foreign subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	26,328	26,328	26,328	-	
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	Ps. 128,312	-	-	
<b>Balance at December 31, 2002</b>	Ps. 724,810	Ps. 1,259,883	Ps. 182,426	Ps. 293,229	Ps. ( 1,511,488)		Ps. 948,860	Ps. 214,408	P
Repurchase of common stock	(4,620)	-	(48,673)	-	-	-	(53,293)	-	
Minority cash dividend	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(16,151)	
Comprehensive income ( loss):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Net income	-	-	-	32,217	-	32,217	32,217	29,989	

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Minimum pension liability	-	-	-	-	(1,024)	(1,024)	(1,024)	-
Result from holding nonmonetary assets	-	-	-	-	52,206	52,206	52,206	15,392
Result from translation of foreign subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	18,794	18,794	18,794	-
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	Ps. 102,193	-	-
Balance at December 31, 2003	Ps. 720,190	Ps. 1,259,883	Ps. 133,753	Ps. 325,446	Ps. ( 1,441,512)		Ps. 997,760	Ps. 243,638
Thousands of U.S. dollars	\$ 64,102	\$ 112,139	\$ 11,905	\$ 28,967	\$ (128,305)		\$ 88,808	\$ 21,686

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

AND SUBSIDIARIES

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Financial Position

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003)

	Years ended December 31,			
	2001	2002	2003	2003
	Thousands of U.S. dollars			
Operating activities:				
Net income of majority stockholders	Ps. 204,180	Ps. 93,007	Ps. 32,217	\$ 2,868
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net resources provided by				

operating				
activities:				
Depreciation	152,430	160,054	175,645	<b>15,634</b>
Write-off of assets	48,152	-	-	-
Deferred income tax	31,770	( 9,024)	25,726	<b>2,290</b>
Minority net income	24,940	19,660	29,989	<b>2,669</b>
	461,472	263,697	263,577	<b>23,461</b>
Variations in operating assets				
and liabilities:				
Accounts receivable	( 51,115)	( 34,232)	35,284	<b>3,141</b>
Inventories	67,117	( 179,803)	( 107,285)	<b>( 9,549)</b>
Other assets	( 8,633)	( 16,314)	( 21,144)	<b>( 1,882)</b>
Accounts payable to suppliers	( 50,509)	148,820	( 45,637)	<b>( 4,062)</b>
Other accounts payable	( 73,069)	( 12,877)	( 20,976)	( 1,868)
Resources provided by operating activities	. 345,263	169,291	103,819	<b>9,241</b>
Financing activities:				
Repurchase of capital stock	-	( 62,737)	( 53,293)	<b>( 4,743)</b>
Minority stockholders' refund	( 16,365)	-	-	-
Minority stockholders' dividends	( 7,402)	( 6,411)	( 25,761)	( 2,293)
Proceeds from long-term debt and bank loans	80,217	1,361,428	512,259	<b>45,595</b>
Repayment of long-term debt and bank loans	( 111,585)	(1,463,713)	( 468,911)	<b>( 41,736)</b>
Monetary gain from financing activities	( 25,442)	( 121,145)	( 82,433)	<b>( 7,337)</b>
Exchange (gains) losses generated by financing activities	( 60,235)	161,059	105,870	<b>9,422</b>
Resources used in financing activities	( 140,812)	( 131,519)	( 12,269)	( 1,092)
Investing activities				

Increase of property, plant and equipment, net	( 116,226)	( 181,793)	( 133,936)	( 11,921)
Resources used in investing activities	( 116,226)	( 181,793)	( 133,936)	( 11,921)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	88,225	( 144,021)	( 42,386)	( 3,772)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	149,231	237,456	93,435	8,316
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	Ps. 237,456	Ps. 93,435	Ps. 51,049	\$ 4,544

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

1. Description of the business and significant accounting policies

Description of the business

Internacional de Ceramica, S.A. de C.V. ("Interceramic") and its subsidiaries Recubrimientos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V. ("Recubrimientos"), and Interceramic, Inc., which is located in Garland, Texas, are all engaged in the manufacture and marketing of ceramic floor and wall tile, the extraction of clay for use in the manufacture of ceramic tile and the marketing of bathroom fixtures. Interceramic's other subsidiaries, which are listed below under "Basis of consolidation," are engaged primarily in the marketing of ceramic tile in the Mexico City and Guadalajara metropolitan areas and in the United States and in the manufacture and marketing of adhesives and grouts in Mexico. Interceramic and its subsidiaries are hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Company."

Significant accounting policies

The consolidated financial statements of the Company have been prepared in Mexican Pesos ("Ps.") in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Mexico ("Mexican GAAP").

The significant accounting policies and practices followed in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements are described below:

a. Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Interceramic and all of its subsidiaries. All material intercompany balances and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation. The subsidiaries included in the consolidated financial statements are as follows, along with corresponding ownership:

	Ownership interest at	
	December 31,	
	2002	2003
Interceramic Holding Company, Inc.	-	100.00
Interceramic, Inc.	100.00	(*)
Recubrimientos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	50.01	50.01
Adhesivos y Boquillas Interceramic, S. de R.L. de C.V.	51.00	51.00
Distribución Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	100.00	100.00
Interacabados del Occidente, S.A. de C.V.	100.00	100.00
Interceramic Trading Co.	100.00	100.00
Materiales en Proceso, S.A. de C.V.	100.00	100.00
Interacabados del Centro, S.A. de C.V.	100.00	100.00
Interceramic de Occidente, S.A. de C.V.	100.00	100.00
Operadora Interceramic de México, S.A. de C.V.	100.00	100.00
Servicios Administrativos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	-	100.00

In April 2002, Procesadora de Materiales Cerro Grande, S.A. de C.V. and Interacabados del Noroeste, S.A. de C.V., wholly-owned subsidiaries of Interceramic, were merged into Interceramic.

(\*) In October 2003, Interceramic Holding Company, Inc. was created and currently owns all the common stock of Interceramic, Inc.

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of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share,



market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

1. Description of the business and significant accounting policies (continued)

a. Basis of consolidation (continued)

The caption "Minority interest" refers to the interest of the minority stockholders in the Company's subsidiaries.

In conformity with Mexican Accounting Principles Bulletin B-15, "Transactions in Foreign Currency and Translation of Financial Statements of Foreign Operations," the Company translated the financial statements of its foreign subsidiaries as follows:

- The financial information reported by the foreign subsidiaries was first adjusted to conform with Mexican GAAP.
- The financial statements were restated at December 31, 2003, based on the Consumer Price Index (the "CPI") of the United States. The monetary effects for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 were determined based on the annual inflation factor derived from the CPI for the respective year.
- Balance sheets were translated into Pesos at the prevailing exchange rate at the end of the year and income statement accounts were translated at the weighted average exchange rate for the year. Translation adjustments are reflected in a separate component of stockholders' equity entitled "Effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries."

Consolidated financial statements as of December 31, 2003 and for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 are presented in constant currency at December 31, 2003, using a common restatement factor determined based on the weighted average net sales in currencies included in the consolidated financial statements, taking into consideration the inflation rate of the foreign country and the exchange rates for those years. Such factors were 1.0983 and 1.0682 for 2001 and 2002, respectively.

b. Estimates in financial statements

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

c. Concentration of risk

The Company distributes its products through Company-owned and independent franchise locations in Mexico. The Company distributes its products in the United States and Canada mainly through its network of wholly-owned Interceramic Tile and Stone Galleries ("ITS") stores and a network of 79 independent distributors with a combined total of 180 locations. On a regular basis, the Company assesses the credit worthiness of its customers and distributors and typically obtains personal guarantees or liens to secure amounts due from its customers and distributors. No single customer accounted for more than 5% of the Company's consolidated net sales for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 or 2003.

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

1. Description of the business and significant accounting policies (continued)

d. Recognition of the effects of inflation

The Company recognizes the effects of inflation on financial information as required by Mexican Accounting Principles Bulletin B-10, "Accounting Recognition of the Effects of Inflation on Financial Information." Consequently, the amounts shown in the accompanying financial statements and in these notes are expressed in thousands of constant Pesos as of December 31, 2003.

Certain concepts and procedures required by the application of Bulletin B-10 are explained below:

- The Company follows the specific-cost method to restate its inventories.
- Imported machinery and equipment was restated based on the rate of inflation in the country of origin and the prevailing exchange rate at the balance sheet date. Machinery and equipment of domestic origin was restated based on the Mexican National Consumer Price Index (the "NCPI").
- At December 31, 2002 and 2003, Common stock, Premium on common stock, stock repurchase reserve, retained earnings, cumulative effect of deferred taxes, effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries, and net income were restated by using a common restatement factor, which was determined based on the weighted average net sales in each currency.

The gain or loss on net monetary position represents the effects of inflation, as measured by the NCPI, on the Company's monetary assets and liabilities. During inflationary periods, losses are incurred by holding monetary assets, whereas gains are realized by holding monetary liabilities. The net monetary effect is included in the consolidated statements of income as part of the "comprehensive financing cost."

The deficit from restatement of stockholders' equity consists principally of the initial cumulative monetary position result and the cumulative deficit from holding non-monetary assets. The (loss) gain from holding non-monetary assets represents the amount by which the (decrease) increase in the specific value of assets was (lower) higher than the rate of inflation.

e. Cash equivalents

Cash equivalents are shown at cost plus accrued interest through the balance sheet date. The stated value approximates fair value.

All highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the time of purchase are considered cash equivalents and are carried at cost that approximates their fair market value.

f. Inventories and cost of sales

Inventories are recorded initially at acquisition or production cost and then restated to reflect replacement cost, which is not in excess of market value.

Cost of sales represents the estimated replacement cost at the time sales were realized, expressed in constant Pesos at the end of the year.

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

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(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

1. Description of the business and significant accounting policies (continued)

g. Investment in shares of affiliated companies

Investments in companies in which the Company has an ownership interest of between 10% and 50% and over which the Company exercises significant influence, are accounted for using the equity method. Investments in companies in which the Company has an ownership interest of less than 10% are recorded at cost and restated for changes in the NCPI.

h. Property, plant and equipment

Through December 31, 1996, the values of property, plant and equipment were determined by an independent appraiser registered with the Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission ("NBSC").

Effective January 1, 1997, Bulletin B-10 eliminated the use of appraisals to value the Company's property, plant and equipment.

At December 31, 2002 and 2003, this component was restated as follows:

- The appraised value of imported machinery and equipment as of December 31, 1996, as well as the cost of subsequent additions to such machinery, were restated based on the rate of inflation in the respective country of origin and then translated using the prevailing exchange rate at the balance sheet date (specific inflation factors).
- The appraised value of land, buildings and other fixed assets of domestic origin at December 31, 1996, and the cost of subsequent additions to such assets were restated based on the NCPI.
- At December 31, 2002 and 2003, approximately 93% and 93% of machinery and equipment were restated based on specific factors and 7% and 7% were restated based on the NCPI.

- Depreciation is computed on the restated values, using the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets as determined periodically by management based on technical studies.

i. Exchange differences

Transactions in foreign currency are recorded at the exchange rate at the time of the transactions. Exchange differences are determined from the date of the transactions to the time of settlement or valuation at the balance sheet date and are charged or credited to income.

j. Labor obligations

Under Mexican labor law, employees are entitled to a special compensation payment ("seniority premium") upon death, dismissal or at retirement after 15 or more years of service. Seniority premium costs are recognized periodically during the years of service rendered by employees, based on actuarial computations performed by an independent actuary, using the projected unit credit method and financial assumptions, net of the effects of inflation, as required by Mexican Accounting Principles Bulletin D-3 ("Labor Obligations"). Termination payments are charged to income in the year in which the decision to dismiss an employee is made.

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(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands

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1. Description of the business and significant accounting policies (continued)

k. Income taxes and employee profit sharing

Deferred income taxes are recognized for all temporary differences between balance sheet components for financial and tax reporting purposes, using enacted income tax rates.

The Company periodically evaluates the possibility of recovering deferred tax assets and if necessary, adjusts the related valuation reserve.

Employee profit sharing is a statutory obligation payable to employees that is determined in accordance with the provisions of both Mexican labor and income tax laws.

In conformity with Bulletin D-4, deferred employee profit sharing is recognized only on temporary differences determined in the reconciliation of current year net income for financial and tax reporting purposes, provided there is no indication that the related liability or asset will not be realized in the future.

Current year employee profit sharing is charged to results of operations and represents a current liability due and payable in a period of less than one year.

Asset tax, which is a minimum income tax, is payable based on the average value of most assets net of certain liabilities. Because income tax may be credited against asset tax, the latter is actually payable only to the extent that it exceeds current year income tax.

Current year income tax is charged to results of operations and represents the tax liability due and payable in less than one year.

#### l. Long-lived assets

The Company periodically evaluates potential impairment loss relating to long-lived assets by assessing whether the unamortized carrying amount can be recovered over the remaining life of the assets through undiscounted future expected cash flows generated by the assets. If the sum of the expected future undiscounted cash flows is less than the carrying value of the assets, a loss is recognized for the difference between the carrying value of the assets and the expected future undiscounted cash flows. Long-lived assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. Due to ongoing profitable operations, no impairments of long-lived assets were recognized during 2001, 2002 or 2003.

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## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

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(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

#### 1. Description of the business and significant accounting policies (continued)

Effective January 1, 2004, the Company will be required to adopt Bulletin C-15 - "Impairment of Long-lived Assets"

which modifies the method in which companies must measure potential impairment losses relating to long-lived assets. Under the provisions of the Bulletin, an impairment loss of long-lived assets will be recognized when the carrying value of assets, measured at the cash generating unit level, exceeds the recoverable value. A cash generating unit (joint venture, subsidiary, production line, division or segment) is the minimum identifiable grouping of assets that generate cash flows that are independent of other groups of assets. The recoverable value is defined as the greater of the value in use (present value of the estimated future net cash flows using an appropriate discount rate) or an estimated net selling price between interested parties, which is reasonable and verifiable. Impairment losses may be reversed in future periods when the recoverable value exceeds the carrying value of the related assets and it can clearly justified and demonstrated that the change is permanent and verifiable. The Company does not expect that the adoption of this new Bulletin will have a material effect on the financial position or results of operations of the Company.

#### m. Revenue recognition

The Company recognizes revenue when goods are shipped and invoiced. Revenue from retail operations is recognized, generally, at the point of sale. Returns and allowances are estimated and accrued based on historical results.

n. Net income per Unit

Net income per Unit is determined on the basis of the weighted average number of Units issued and outstanding. Units are comprised of two shares that are traded together as one Unit. A "UB" Unit is comprised of two Series "B" Shares and a "ULD" Unit is comprised of one Series "L" Share and one Series "D" Share.

o. Comprehensive income (loss)

Comprehensive income consists of net income or loss for the year plus those items that are reflected directly in stockholders' equity and that do not constitute capital contributions, reductions or distributions such as deficit from restatement of stockholders' equity, effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries and deferred taxes allocated to stockholders' equity.

p. Convenience translation

Solely for the convenience of the reader, the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2003 have been translated into United States Dollars ("US \$" or "Dollars") at the exchange rate of Ps. 11.235 per US \$1.00, the rate of exchange at December 31, 2003. The translation should not be construed as a representation that the Peso amounts have been or could be converted into Dollars at this or any other rate.

q. Reclassifications

Certain amounts in the 2001 and 2002 consolidated financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the 2003 presentation.

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

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2. Related parties

In the normal course of business, the Company has transactions with related parties and affiliated companies. Affiliated companies are those in which the Company's principal stockholders have significant equity interests or control of management. The main transactions with these companies consist of ceramic tile purchases for resale in

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Mexico and in the United States. Such transactions are negotiated on terms and prices that management believes are comparable to similar transactions with non-related customers.

During the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, the Company had the following transactions with related parties:

	2001	2002	2003
Sales of ceramic tile:			
Affiliated companies			
Grupo Comercial Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	Ps. 163,828	Ps. 185,263	Ps. 174,029
Materiales Arquitectónicos y Decorativos, S.A. de C.V.	85,355	77,706	83,243
Joint venture			
Dal-Tile International, Inc.	76,556	103,533	84,818
	Ps. 325,739	Ps. 366,502	Ps. 342,090
Inventory purchases:			
Stockholders			
Kohler, Co.	Ps. 90,830	Ps. 87,711	Ps. 96,912
Joint venture			
Custom Building Products, Inc.	11,178	7,192	16,594
	Ps. 102,008	Ps. 94,903	Ps. 113,506
Fees paid for administrative services and other items:			
Affiliated companies:			
Corporación Administrativa y Técnica, S.A. de C.V.	Ps. 26,122	Ps. 23,875	Ps. 22,804
Corporación Aérea Cencor, S.A. de C.V.	7,875	10,076	9,743
	Ps. 33,997	Ps. 33,951	Ps. 32,547

Sales to joint venture partners consist of ceramic tile sold in the United States.

Purchases from stockholders and joint ventures consist of bathroom fixtures and adhesives, grouts and related products for resale in Mexico.

Fees paid for administrative services relate to management consulting, use of computer systems, maintenance of

equipment and air-taxi services provided by related companies.

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2. Related parties (continued)

An analysis of amounts due to and from related parties at December 31, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

	2002	2003
Trade receivables:		
Grupo Comercial Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	Ps. 30,658	Ps. 20,954
Materiales Arquitectónicos y Decorativos, S.A. de C.V.	10,187	9,042
Dal-Tile International, Inc.	21,901	17,519
Others	485	191
	Ps. 63,231	Ps. 47,706
Accounts payable:		
Custom Building Products, Inc	Ps. 10,589	Ps. 404
Kohler, Co.	8,786	7,075
Others	209	735
	Ps. 19,584	Ps. 8,214

3. Inventories

Inventories at December 31, 2002 and 2003 consisted of the following:

	2002	2003
Finished goods	Ps. 659,337	Ps. 788,454
Work in process	28,483	33,085
Raw materials and supplies	78,896	89,489
Merchandise in transit	61,169	30,961
	Ps. 827,885	Ps. 941,989



The reserve for obsolete and slow-moving inventories is Ps. 69,583 and Ps. 65,389 at December 31, 2002 and 2003, respectively, and has been deducted from finished goods and raw materials and supplies.

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## 4. Property, plant and equipment

Details of property, plant and equipment at December 31, 2002 and 2003 were as follows:

	2002		2003	
	Investment	Accumulated depreciation	Investment	Accumulated depreciation
Buildings	Ps. 775,337	Ps. 249,415	Ps. 783,183	Ps. 274,536
Machinery and equipment	1,989,150	998,397	2,256,079	1,094,633
Furniture and fixtures	217,141	143,807	232,420	165,385
Automotive equipment	59,173	46,660	79,155	60,627
	3,040,801	Ps. 1,438,279	3,350,837	Ps. 1,595,181
Land	144,354		141,053	
Projects in progress	101,099		69,464	
Total investment	Ps. 3,286,254		Ps. 3,561,354	

Depreciation expense for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 was Ps. 152,430, Ps. 160,054 and Ps. 175,645, respectively.

Estimated useful lives at December 31, 2003 were as follows:

Buildings	25 years
Machinery and equipment	10 years
Furniture and fixtures	4 years
Automotive equipment	2 years

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## 5. Bank loans and notes payable

Notes payable to banks and outstanding long-term debt at December 31, 2002 and 2003 were as follows:

	2002			
	Maturities			
Type of loan	Total	Current portion	Long - term	Interest rates
Unsecured	Ps. 23,637	Ps. 22,834	Ps. 803	5.13% - 7.64%
Secured	67,688	1,098	66,590	4.71%
Syndicated loan	1,117,386	174,029	943,357	3.87%
Total bank loans	1,208,711	197,961	1,010,750	
Notes due to supplier	5,204	3,287	1,917	5.00%
	Ps. 1,213,915	Ps. 201,248	Ps. 1,012,667	
	2003			
	Maturities			
Type of loan	Total	Current portion	Long - term	Interest rates
Secured	Ps. 215,542	Ps. 1,486	Ps. 214,056	2.94% - 7.52%
Syndicated loan	960,761	202,398	758,363	3.43%
Total bank loans	1,176,303	203,884	972,419	
Notes due to supplier	1,941	1,941	-	5.00%

	Ps. 1,178,244	Ps. 205,825	Ps. 972,419	
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At December 31, 2002 and 2003, all bank loans were denominated in Dollars. All secured and syndicated bank loans are collateralized by property, plant and equipment, accounts receivable and inventory amounting to Ps. 1,908,806 and Ps. 1,993,901 at December 31, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

During 2003, the Company entered into a US \$25,000 (Ps. 280,875) secured revolving line of credit with Wells Fargo available through May 2006. At December 31, 2003, the Company had US \$19,014 (Ps. 213,632) outstanding under this agreement.

In August 2001, the Company obtained long term supplier financing from Oracle to purchase software in the amount of US \$888 (Ps. 8,722). The agreement requires monthly payments of principal and interest through July 2004.

In June 2002, the Company entered into a syndicated loan agreement with several financial institutions and Scotiabank Inverlat, S.A., as administrative agent, for US \$100,000 which was used to repay the US \$90,000 Eurobond and the balance used for working capital purposes. The loan is divided into two tranches: "Term A Loans" for US \$40,000 with a three-year maturity and interest at LIBOR plus from 1.70% to 2.20%, respectively, based upon certain ratios, and "Term B Loans" for US \$60,000 with a five-year maturity and interest at LIBOR plus from 2.30% to 2.80%, based upon certain ratios. This loan is collateralized by land, buildings and equipment, accounts receivable, inventory and shares owned by the Company in a joint venture. The Company's subsidiaries Distribucion Interceramic, S.A. de C.V., Interacabados del Occidente, S.A. de C.V., and Interceramic, Inc., also provided certain guarantees.

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5. Bank loans and notes payable (continued)

In March 2002, the Company entered into a US \$6,000 revolving line of credit agreement with Banamex. The term of the agreement is through March 2005. At December 31, 2003 no amount was outstanding under this facility.

At December 31, 2003, future maturities of long-term debt were as follows:

Maturities	
2005	Ps. 224,882
2006	466,568
2007	280,969
	Ps. 972,419

The syndicated loan and outstanding bank loan agreements establish certain financial ratios to be observed and impose obligations and restrictive covenants with respect to certain transactions including the payment of cash dividends, mergers and combinations, the disposal of fixed assets, information reporting requirements and others. Prior to September 30, 2003, the Company reached an agreement with the syndicated loan lenders on a series of amendments to the credit agreement which were completed as of October 31, 2003. These amendments consist basically of new covenant ratios and increased rates of interest payable on the loan, depending on the Company's ability to meet certain ratios.

At December 31, 2003, the Company was in compliance with all of its obligations and restrictions established by these agreements.

#### 6. Foreign currency position

The Company had the following Dollar denominated assets and liabilities at December 31, 2001 and 2003:

	2002	2003
Current assets	US \$ 52,980	US \$ 50,464
Current liabilities	48,755	48,734
Long-term liabilities	91,245	86,553
Total liabilities	US \$ 140,000	US \$ 135,287
Net (short) long position	US \$ (87,020)	US \$ (84,823)

Dollar denominated assets and liabilities were translated to Pesos using the interbank rates at December 31, 2002 and 2003 of Ps. 10.390 and Ps. 11.235 per Dollar, respectively. The exchange rate at February 9, 2004 was Ps. 11.120 per Dollar.

Foreign currency denominated sales during the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 were Ps. 1,294,053 (US \$117,420), Ps. 1,425,425 (US \$130,871) and Ps. 1,504,400 (US \$134,647), respectively (calculated using the interbank rate at the end of each month), and represented 40.8%, 43.6% and 43.9% of total net sales, respectively.

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## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

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#### 6. Foreign currency position (continued)

Most of the Company's machinery and equipment is imported, primarily from Italy and Spain.

During the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, the Company imported inventory and machinery and equipment into Mexico totaling US \$21,153, US \$29,690 and US \$47,788, respectively.

#### 7. Labor obligations

The Company recognizes its liability for seniority premiums as services are rendered based on actuarial computations, using the projected unit-credit method. The following is a summary of consolidated financial data based on actuarial studies as of December 31, 2002 and 2003:

	2002	2003
Accumulated benefit obligation	Ps. 4,698	Ps. 5,216
Projected benefit obligation	5,291	5,216
Unrecognized transition obligations	( 1,674)	( 1,554)
Unrecognized net gain ( loss )	( 165)	( 509)
Net projected liability	3,452	3,153
Additional liability	1,246	2,474
Accrued liability	Ps. 4,698	Ps. 5,627
Intangible asset	Ps. 1,246	Ps. 1,450
Minimum pension liability	Ps. -	Ps. 1,024

The components of the net periodic pension cost during the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 were follows:

	2001	2002	2003
Change in benefit obligation:			
Benefit obligation at January 1	Ps. 3,413	Ps. 3,526	Ps. 3,452
Pension cost:			
Service cost	752	693	698
Interest cost	254	251	280
Amortization of transition liability	94	76	93
Amortization of actuarial losses	( 14)	( 10)	( 9)
Curtailement losses	-	317	-
Inflation effects	360	( 45)	( 127)
Net Periodic Pension Cost	1,446	[,282	935
Benefits paid by Company	( 2,266)	( 1,356)	( 1,264)
Adjustment for Actual Amount Expensed	933	-	30

Benefit obligation at December 31,	Ps. 3,526	Ps. 3,452	Ps. 3,153
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The transition liability is being amortized over a period of 21 years.

During the year ended December 31, 2002, the Company adjusted its labor obligations liabilities due to employee terminations that occurred as a result of restructuring plans in prior years.

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7. Labor obligations (continued)

The significant assumptions considered in determining the net periodic pension cost during the years ended December 2001, 2002 and 2003 were:

	2001	2002	2003
Discount rate	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Rate of pay increases	2.50%	2.50%	1.50%
Effect of inflation	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%

The Company's subsidiary located in the United States has a defined contribution savings plan covering substantially all its employees. Total contributions for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 were approximately Ps. 2,683 (US \$292), Ps. 2,899 (US \$279) and Ps. 2,797 (US \$249), respectively.

8. Stockholders' equity

Interceramic's capital stock is variable with a fixed minimum of Ps. 216,831 (Ps. 7,000 nominal).

The capital stock consists of three different series of shares. Series "B" Shares are common, registered shares with no par value and full voting rights. They may be freely subscribed and for a period of ten years, ending on December 7, 2004, they are to be represented by Common Units, each consisting of two Series "B" Shares (traded as "Ceramic UB").

Series "L" Shares have limited voting rights, are registered shares with no par value and may be freely subscribed. Until December 7, 2004 they are represented by and may only be traded as Limited Voting Units, each consisting of one Series "L" Share and one Series "D" Share (traded as "Ceramic ULD").

Series "D" Shares are preferred, registered shares with limited voting rights, without par value and until December 31, 2004 they are represented by and may only be traded with the Series "L" Shares as Limited Voting Units. The Series "D" Shares are entitled to a minimum annual preferred dividend of Ps. 0.025 per share. In any given period in which no minimum preferred dividend is declared or is paid only partially, such dividend or unpaid amount shall accumulate for future periods. The accumulated minimum preferred dividends at December 31, 2002 and 2003 is Ps. 5,863 and Ps. 6,354.

On December 7, 2004, the Series "L" Shares will convert into Series "B" Shares, and thereafter the Series "L" Shares will cease to exist as a class of Inter Ceramic's capital stock. At such time, all voting and other rights previously applicable to holders of Series "L" Shares will no longer exist, other than to the extent rights may be available under the Bylaws to holders of Series "B" Shares. After December 7, 2004 the Series "D" Shares will retain their minimum preferred dividend and limited voting rights.

In addition, after December 7, 2004, the pairing of Inter Ceramic's shares into Units will cease, and each series of stock will trade separately.

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Stockholders' equity (continued)

An analysis of the authorized and outstanding capital stock as of December 31, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

		2002		2003	
		Number of		Number of	
Series	Units	Shares	Units	Shares	Units
"B"	"Ceramic UB"	63,179,030	31,589,515	57,906,632	28,953,316
"L"	"Ceramic ULD"	21,431,860	21,431,860	19,646,720	19,646,720
"D"		21,431,860	-	19,646,720	-
Number of outstanding shares		106,042,750	53,021,375	97,200,072	48,600,036
Number of authorized shares		124,571,150	62,285,575	124,571,150	62,285,575

In 1996, the Company established a Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"), pursuant to which certain employees and executives of the Company may be granted options from time to time during its term to purchase an amount of Limited Voting Units per eligible employee as set by a committee of the Board of Directors (the "Board"). An aggregate of 1,297,000 Limited Voting Units have been made available for purchase by employees under the Plan. Due to certain peculiarities of Mexican law, all of the shares allocable under the Plan were issued to and purchased by a Trust established expressly for that purpose. The purchases by the Trust were funded by contributions made by the Company, and, upon the exercise of a stock option by an employee, the employee in effect purchased the applicable shares directly from the Trust. In addition to termination by expiration, the Plan options may terminate for other reasons, including death, disability or termination of employment with the Company. At December 31, 2002 and 2003, the Trust held 1,211,000 and 1,203,000 Limited Voting Units, respectively. Amounts contributed to the Trust by the Company are included in the component entitled "other accounts receivable." At December 31, 2002 and 2003, the amount due from the Trust amounted to Ps. 16,261 and Ps. 13,933, respectively, and is net of proceeds received from employees who exercised their options during 2002 and 2003.

During 2000, the Company decided to cease granting options under the Plan, and terminated it for all purposes other than to govern options previously granted. However, in 2002 and 2003 the Board decided to reassign certain expired options under the Plan, and in July 2001 options to acquire an additional 570,000 Limited Voting Units (the "July 2001 Options") were granted to certain officers of the Company at an exercise price of Ps. 17.00 per Unit. In November 2001, additional options to acquire 77,000 Limited Voting Units (the "November 2001 Options") were granted to certain officers of the Company at an exercise price of Ps. 17.00 per Unit. In August 2002, additional options to acquire 177,000 Limited Voting Units (the "August 2002 Options") were granted to certain officers of the Company at an exercise price of Ps. 12.15 per Unit. In September 2003, additional options to acquire 166,000 Limited Voting Units (the "September 2003 Options") were granted to certain officers of the Company at an exercise price of Ps. 11.50 per Unit. Additionally, the Board decided to reduce the exercise price of the July 2001 and November 2001 Options to Ps. 12.15 per Unit. The September 2003, August 2002, July 2001 and November 2001 Options represented reassignment of options to acquire Limited Voting Units that had either previously expired or lapsed.

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8. Stockholders' equity (continued)

A summary of the changes in the outstanding options granted under the Plan during the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 is presented below:

	2001	2002	2003
--	------	------	------



	Number of Units		
Options outstanding at beginning of year:	1,297,000	1,244,000	<b>1,211,000</b>
Exercised	( 53,000)	( 33,000)	( 8,000)
Expired	( 647,000)	( 177,000)	( 171,000)
Granted	647,000	177,000	166,000
Options outstanding at end of year	1,244,000	1,211,000	<b>1,198,000</b>
Options available for future grants	-	-	5,000
Weighted average price of outstanding options at December 31,	Ps. 14.43	Ps. 11.68	Ps. 11.58
Options exercisable at December 31,	597,000	387,000	208,000
Weighted average exercise price of exercisable options	Ps. 11.62	Ps. 10.69	Ps. 9.40

During the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, options to purchase 53,000, 33,000 and 8,000 Limited Voting Units were exercised, at an average price of Ps. 11.48, Ps. 13.96 and Ps. 12.30 per Unit, respectively.

The weighted exercise price of options that expired in 2001, 2002 and 2003, were Ps. 11.87, Ps.13.33 and Ps. 12.27, respectively.

During 2002, the Company increased the reserve for repurchase of shares by Ps. 211,869 and repurchased the following numbers of shares during the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2003:

		2002		2003	
		Number of		Number of	
Series	Units	Shares	Units	Shares	Units
"B"	"Ceramic UB"	2,561,400	1,280,700	<b>5,272,398</b>	<b>2,636,199</b>
"L"	"Ceramic ULD"	3,626,000	3,626,000	<b>1,785,140</b>	<b>1,785,140</b>
"D"		3,626,000	-	<b>1,785,140</b>	-
		9,813,400	4,906,700	<b>8,842,678</b>	<b>4,421,339</b>

In conformity with the Mexican Corporations Act, at least 5% of net income of each year must be allocated to increase the legal reserve. This practice must be continued until the legal reserve reaches 20% of capital stock issued and outstanding. As of December 31, 2003, the Company had a legal reserve of Ps. 34,520 included in retained earnings. At December 31, 2002, the Company had not allocated any of its retained earnings to the legal reserve.

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## 8. Stockholders' equity (continued)

An analysis of cumulative comprehensive income (loss) at December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

	2001	2002	2003	2003 Thousands of U.S. dollars
Cumulative effect of deferred income taxes	Ps. ( 319,986)	Ps. ( ; 319,986)	Ps. ( 319,986)	\$ ( 28,481)
Minimum pension liability	-	-	( 1,024)	( 91)
Deficit from restatement of stockholders' equity	( 1,278,021)	( 1,269,044)	( 1,216,838)	( 108,308)
Effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries	51,214	77,542	96,336	8,575
Cumulative comprehensive income (loss)	Ps. ( 1,546,793)	Ps. ( 1,511,488)	Ps. ( 1,441,512)	\$ ( 128,305)

## 9. Income taxes, asset tax and employee profit sharing

Interceramic and its subsidiaries in Mexico are each subject to the payment of income and asset tax. The Company's United States subsidiaries are subject to state and federal income taxes. These taxes are computed by Interceramic and each subsidiary separately and each files its own tax return.

An analysis of income and asset tax expense for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

	2001	2002	2003
Current income tax and asset tax	Ps. 18,244	Ps. 20,852	Ps. 21,105
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)	31,770	( 9,024)	25,726
	Ps. 50,014	Ps. 11,828	Ps. 46,831

An analysis of the deferred tax liabilities (assets) at December 31, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

	2002	2003

Deferred tax liabilities		
Inventories	Ps. 125,636	Ps. 175,429
Fixed assets	312,605	351,246
Foreign subsidiaries deferred tax liabilities and effect of translation	52,607	41,643
	490,848	568,318
Deferred tax assets		
Allowance for doubtful accounts	2,047	856
Provisions	14,084	10,094
Tax loss carryforwards	195,376	183,540
Asset tax paid in prior years	46,514	50,124
	( 258,021)	( 244,614)
Less: valuation allowance	113,347	118,919
Net deferred income tax liabilities	Ps. 346,174	Ps. 442,623

A valuation allowance has been recorded due to the uncertainty of realizing a portion of the Company's tax loss and assets carryforwards, primarily from its operations in the United States.

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9. Income taxes, asset tax and employee profit sharing (continued)

The portion of deferred income taxes attributable to the excess of indexed costs over replacement cost and the effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries have an effect on deferred income taxes charged to income for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 as analyzed below:

	2001	2002	2003
Change in deferred income tax liabilities	Ps. (37,555)	Ps. 10,816	Ps. 96,449
Less:			
Effect of inflation, net monetary effect (1)	6,852	20,223	18,006

Change in deferred income taxes recorded in deficit from restatement of stockholders' equity	42,893	( 26,336)	( 56,084)
Change in deferred income taxes recorded in effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries	9,756	( 10,510)	( 21,952)
Change in deferred income taxes recorded in minority stockholders' equity	9,824	( 3,217)	( 10,693)
Deferred income tax expense (benefit) included in statements of income	Ps. 31,770	Ps ( 9,024)	Ps. 25,726

(1) Because current tax legislation recognizes partially the effects of inflation on certain items that give rise to deferred taxes, the current year net monetary effect on such items has been reclassified in the statement of income from result from the monetary position result to deferred income tax expense of the year.

The Company incurred tax losses in prior years, which, in conformity with the current Mexican income tax law, may be carried forward, restated for inflation following the procedures defined in the law, and applied against taxable earnings generated in the next ten years.

The Company also has recoverable asset tax paid in prior years in excess of income tax. In conformity with current tax legislation, asset tax actually paid in a given year may be recovered, restated for inflation following the procedure defined in the law, by means of a refund mechanism in any of the succeeding ten years in which income tax exceeds asset tax. During the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, Interceramic was not required to pay any asset tax because it exercised the option of taking immediate deduction of its investments in fixed assets. Certain subsidiaries paid asset tax of Ps. 5,955, Ps. 5,244 and Ps. 4,847 in 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

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## 9. Income taxes, asset tax and employee profit sharing (continued)

An analysis of the available tax loss carryforwards and recoverable asset tax for the Company's Mexican subsidiaries at December 31, 2003, restated for inflation, is as follows:

Year of tax loss or payment of asset tax	Year of expiration	Tax loss carryforwards	Recoverable asset tax
1995	2005	Ps. 9,362	Ps. -
1996	2006	-	5,476
1997	2007	-	13,959
1998	2008	35,720	3,751
1999	2009	33,059	5,507
2000	2010	223	5,385
2001	2011	201	5,955
2002	2012	16,291	5,244
2003	2013	95,559	4,847
		Ps. 190,415	Ps. 50,124

Interceramic, Inc., the Company's United States subsidiary, has net operating loss carryforwards for federal income tax purposes, which if not utilized to offset future taxable income, will expire at various dates as summarized below:

Year of tax loss	Year of expiration	Tax loss carryforwards
1996	2011	Ps. 73,073
1997	2017	140,281
1998	2018	25,259
1999	2019	17,457
2000	2020	67,925
2001	2021	31,013
		Ps. 355,008

A reconciliation of the difference between income taxes computed at the statutory income tax rate and the Company's effective income tax rate for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

	2001	2002	2003
Income tax expense at the statutory rate on income before income tax and employee profit sharing	Ps. 98,995	Ps. 44,904	Ps. 37,073

Inflationary effects	( 18,824)	( 177)	( 569)
Non-deductible expenses	1,128	13,400	<b>3,639</b>
Other	( 2,884)	40	<b>1,634</b>
Change in valuation allowance	( 28,401)	( 31,519)	<b>5,615</b>
Effect of change in income tax rates	-	( 14,820)	( 561)
Net income tax expense	Ps. 50,014	Ps. 11,828	Ps. 46,831

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## 9. Income taxes, asset tax and employee profit sharing (continued)

In 2001, the income tax law was changed to reduce the statutory income tax rate for 35% in 2002 to 32% in 2005 through an annual one percentage point reduction in the statutory rate beginning in 2003.

At December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, the Company had the following equity account balances for income tax purposes:

	Balance of Restated Contribute	Balance of Net Tax	Reinvested Net Fiscal
	Capital Account ("CUCA")	Profit Account ("CUFIN")	Account ("CUFINRE")
2001	Ps. 2,128,285	Ps. 58,069	Ps. 34,125
2002	Ps. 1,954,491	Ps. 96,335	Ps. 19,861
2003	Ps. 1,767,223	Ps. 115,073	Ps. 1,743

Beginning in 1999 and through 2001, the income tax law allowed the option of deferring payments of part of income taxes due during those years. Deferral of said tax and related income is controlled through the Reinvested Net Fiscal Account ("CUFINRE"). Earnings distributed in excess of fiscal balances from CUFINRE and CUFIN, will be subject to enacted corporative income tax rate. Effective January 1, 2002, the above-mentioned option of deferring a portion of income tax was eliminated.

## 10. Industry segment information

Financial information by geographical area as of and for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

	2001			
	Mexico	United States	Eliminations and other adjustments	Consolidated
Net sales:				
General customers	Ps. 1,957,931	Ps. 1,216,223	Ps. -	Ps. 3,174,154
Inter-area transfers	788,958	2,009	( 790,967)	-
	Ps. 2,746,889	Ps. 1,218,232	Ps. ( 790,967)	Ps. 3,174,154
Interest expense, net of monetary effect	Ps. ( 86,775)	Ps. ( 10,455)	Ps. 11,272	Ps. ( 85,958)
Net income	Ps. 198,756	Ps. 7,208	Ps. ( 1,784)	Ps. 204,180
Depreciation	Ps. 110,298	Ps. 42,132	Ps. -	Ps. 152,430
Write off of assets	Ps. 48,152	Ps. -	Ps. -	Ps. 48,152
Capital expenditures	Ps. 102,478	Ps. 13,748	Ps. -	Ps. 116,226
Total assets	Ps. 3,632,736	Ps. 753,229	Ps. ( 1,257,469)	Ps. 3,128,496
Long-lived assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	Ps. 1,448,679	Ps. 299,275	Ps. -	Ps. 1,747,954
Other assets	738,361	5,015	( 686,954)	56,422
	Ps. 2,187,040	Ps. 304,290	Ps. ( 686,954)	Ps. 1,804,376

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## 10. Industry segment information (continued)

	2002			
	Mexico	United States	Eliminations and other adjustments	Consolidated
Net sales:				
General customers	Ps. 1,946,460	Ps. 1,320,925	Ps. -	Ps. 3,267,385
Inter-area transfers	879,319	9,521	( 888,840)	-
	Ps. 2,825,779	Ps. 1,330,446	Ps. ( 888,840)	Ps. 3,267,385
Interest expense, net of monetary effect	Ps. ( 65,588)	Ps. 5,106	Ps. -	Ps. ( 60,482)
Net income	Ps. 21,530	Ps. 89,449	Ps. ( 17,972)	Ps. 93,007
Depreciation	Ps. 112,299	Ps. 47,755	Ps. -	Ps. 160,054
Capital expenditures	Ps. 152,487	Ps. 29,306	Ps. -	Ps. 181,793
Total assets	Ps. 3,976,021	Ps. 860,659	Ps. ( 1,565,237)	Ps. 3,271,443
Long-lived assets:				
Property, plant and equipment	Ps. 1,543,929	Ps. 304,046	Ps. -	Ps. 1,847,975
Other assets	689,750	4,931	( 620,871)	73,810
	Ps. 2,233,679	Ps. 308,977	Ps. ( 620,871)	Ps. 1,921,785

	2003			
	Mexico	United States	Eliminations and other adjustments	Consolidated
Net sales:				
General customers	Ps. 2,006,162	Ps. 1,418,764	Ps. -	Ps. 3,424,926
Inter-area transfers	812,989	45,270	( 858,259)	-
	Ps. 2,819,151	Ps. 1,464,034	Ps. #9; ( 858,259)	Ps. 3,424,926
Interest expense, net of monetary effect	Ps. ; ( 25,829)	Ps. ; ( 2,854)	Ps. -	Ps. ( 28,683)
Net income	Ps. 22,834	Ps. 7,282	Ps. 2,101	Ps. 32,217
Depreciation	Ps. 127,857	Ps. 47,788	Ps. -	Ps. 175,645
Capital expenditures	Ps. 116,784	Ps. 17,152	Ps. -	Ps. 133,936
Total assets	Ps. 4,060,780	Ps. 848,030	Ps. ; (1,460,142)	Ps. 3,448,668
Long-lived assets:				
Property, plant and	Ps. 1,676,361	Ps. 289,812	Ps. -	Ps. 1,966,173



equipment				
Other assets	734,226	11,102	( 650,204)	95,124
	Ps. 2,410,587	Ps. 300,914	Ps. 9; ( 650,204)	Ps. 2,061,297

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## 10. Industry segment information (continued)

Geographical sales by customer location are as follows:

	Mexico	Unites States				
	Total	Wholly owned	Independent	Others (*)	Total	Total
	Domestic sales	distributors	distributors		U.S. sales	sales
Net sales 2001	Ps. 1,880,102	Ps 781,647	Ps. 434,576	Ps. 77,829	Ps. 1,294,052	Ps. 3,174,154
Net sales 2002	Ps. 1,841,960	Ps. 921,360	Ps. 399,565	Ps. 104,500	Ps. 1,425,425	Ps. 3,267,385
Net sales 2003	Ps. 1,920,526	Ps. 1,032,256	Ps. 386,508	Ps. 85,636	Ps. 1,504,400	Ps. 3,424,926

(\*) A small part of these sales did not occur in the United States.

## 11. Commitments and

## contingencies

The Company has entered into rental agreements for office space, manufacturing facilities and equipment used in its operations under non-cancelable operating leases. A summary of future minimum lease payments under these agreements at December 31, 2003 is as follows:

2004	Ps. 91,516
2005	81,652
2006	80,708

2007	74,731
2008	64,177
Thereafter	331,177
Total future minimum rental payments	Ps. 723,961

Rental expense incurred under operating leases for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 was Ps. 57,374, Ps. 54,973 and Ps. 93,634, respectively.

Under certain lease agreements the respective monthly lease payments will increase annually in accordance with the NCPI.

The Company is party to various claims, legal actions, and complaints arising in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of management and the Company's independent lawyers, all such matters are without merit or are of such nature, or involve such amounts, that an unfavorable disposition would not have a material effect on the financial position or results of operations of the Company.

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## 12. Subsequent events

On January 14, 2004, at a general stockholders meeting, Interceramic authorized a capital increase of 32,800,000 Units and it was thereafter determined by the Board to offer 32,732,026 of these Units for sale to its shareholders pursuant to statutory preemptive rights granted under Mexican law. Accordingly, Interceramic offered holders of record of Common Units the right to acquire 0.06734980 new Common Units and holders of record of Limited Voting Units the right to acquire 0.6734980 new Limited Voting Units at the subscription price of US \$1.3636 per Unit. The subscription period for this rights offering expires on March 30th 2004. Unsubscribed shares at the end of the offering period were offered to certain current shareholders in an extended offering.

At the same meeting, Interceramic approved a plan to acquire directly or indirectly, the companies Grupo Comercial Interceramic, S.A. de .C.V and Materiales Arquitectonicos Decorativos, S.A. de C.V. These companies are currently owned by the controlling stockholders of the Company. The aggregate purchase price for these companies is US \$15,800. The purchase was completed on March 31, 2004.

At the completion of the rights offering and the extended offering, all of the offered shares were fully subscribed, resulting in net proceeds of US \$44.7 million. Of this amount, US \$15.8 million were used for the purchase of the two franchises mentioned above, US \$25.0 million was reserved for the construction and equipment of a new manufacturing facility in Chihuahua, Mexico, and the remaining US \$3.8 million reserved for other general corporate purposes.

13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles

The Company's consolidated financial statements are prepared in conformity with Mexican GAAP, which differs in certain significant respects from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States ("US GAAP").

The Mexican GAAP consolidated financial statements reflect certain effects of inflation provided under Bulletin B-10, as amended, whereas financial statements prepared under US GAAP are presented on a historical-cost basis. The following reconciliation to US GAAP does not include the reversal of the adjustments required under Bulletin B-10, as its application represents a comprehensive measure of the effects of price-level changes as a result of inflation in the Mexican economy and is considered a more meaningful presentation than historical-cost based financial reporting for both Mexican and United States accounting purposes.

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13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

The other principal differences between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP applicable to the Company's consolidated financial statements are discussed below and include a presentation of the effect on the Company's consolidated stockholders' equity and consolidated net income provided below.

Consolidated stockholders' equity and consolidated net income, adjusted for the effect of certain material differences between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP, are as follows:

	Sub note	December 31,		
		2001	2002	2003
Majority Stockholders' equity under		Ps. 883,287	Ps. 948,860	Ps. 997,760
<b>Mexican GAAP</b>				

US GAAP adjustments:				
Translation of foreign subsidiaries	a)	( 55,792)	( 25,234)	-
Capitalization of interest, net of accumulated depreciation	b)	13,878	12,947	8,510
Valuation of fixed assets based on the NCPI	c)	298,492	280,859	122,609
Depreciation of fixed assets based on NCPI	c)	( 80,597)	( 97,927)	( 101,549)
Deferred income taxes (1)	d)	( 109,330)	( 66,686)	( 9,759)
Deferred employee profit sharing (1)	e)	( 140,536)	( 169,877)	-
Variable capital shares	f)	( 493,345)	( 488,192)	( 483,637)
Employee stock purchase trust	g)	( 15,861)	( 14,527)	( 14,007)
Minority interest of reconciling items	h)	51,453	44,749	32,613
Tax benefit of stock issuance cost	i)	9,519	9,519	9,519
Stockholders' equity under US GAAP		Ps. 361,168	Ps. 434,491	Ps. 562,059
		Year ended December 31,		
	Sub note	2001	2002	2003
Net income under Mexican GAAP		Ps. 204,180	Ps. 93,007	Ps. 32,217
US GAAP adjustments:				
Translation of foreign subsidiaries	a)	( 12,895)	( 2,473)	-
Capitalized interest, net of depreciation	b)	( 2,868)	( 931)	( 4,437)
Depreciation of fixed assets based on NCPI	c)	( 26,052)	( 17,330)	( 3,622)
Deferred income taxes (1)	d)	36,502	27,619	27,689
Deferred employee profit sharing (1)	e)	23,226	( 29,341)	169,877
Minority interest in reconciling items	h)	( 15,127)	( 6,703)	( 12,136)
Net income under US GAAP		Ps. 206,996	Ps. 63,848	Ps. 209,588

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13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

(1) Deferred income taxes and employee profit sharing are reflected net of the effect on net monetary position.

Consolidated statements of changes in stockholders' equity

Consolidated statements of changes in stockholders' equity, adjusted for the effect of certain material differences between Mexican GAAP and US GAAP, are as follows:

	2001	2002	2003
Stockholder's equity beginning of year			
under US GAAP	Ps. 260,780	Ps. 361,169	Ps. 434,491
Employee stock purchase trust	1,365	1,334	520
Repurchase of Common stock, net of variable capital	-	( 55,935)	( 48,739)
Comprehensive income:			
Net income	206,966	63,848	209,588
Result of holding non-monetary assets	( 84,610)	21,174	( 106,044)
Minimum pension liability	-	-	( 1,024)
Deferred income taxes resulting from the effect of holding non-monetary assets	43,188	( 15,025)	29,238
Effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries	( 66,521)	57,926	44,029
Stockholder's equity at end of year			
under US GAAP	Ps. 361,168	Ps. 434,491	Ps. 562,059

a) Translation of foreign subsidiaries

As explained in Note 1a, in conformity with Bulletin B-15, "Transactions in Foreign Currency and Translation of Financial Statements of Foreign Operations," the Company restated the financial statements at December 31, 2001 and 2002, using a common restatement factor determined based on the weighted average selling rate for each currency, taking into consideration the inflation rate of the foreign (non-Mexican) country and the exchange rates for those years. For US GAAP purposes, those financial statements would have been restated based on the NCPI. Factors derived from the NCPI, published by the Banco de Mexico, were 1.0570 and 1.0398 for 2001 and 2002, respectively.

b) Capitalized interest

The Company capitalizes the comprehensive financing cost related to specific borrowings on assets under construction in conformity with Mexican GAAP. Under US GAAP, interest must be considered an additional cost of constructed assets and capitalized and depreciated over the lives of the related assets. The amount of interest

capitalized for US GAAP purposes totaled Ps. 1,382, Ps. 3,552 and Ps. 0, for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively. The depreciation of amounts previously capitalized under USGAAP amounted to Ps. 4,250, Ps. 4,483 and Ps. 4,437, for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

c) Valuation and depreciation of fixed assets based on the NCPI

As explained in Notes 1d and 1h, in conformity with the Bulletin B-10, the Company restated the imported machinery using the alternative method (i.e., the rate of inflation in the country of origin and prevailing exchange rate at the balance sheet date) under Mexican GAAP. For US GAAP purposes, those assets would have been restated based on the NCPI.

At December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, net plant, property and equipment under US GAAP would be Ps. 1,869,313, Ps. 1,896,689 and Ps. 1,995,742, respectively.

Rates used to adjust prior year balances under Mexican GAAP were 1.1731 and 1.0682, compared to the rates of inflation in Mexico that were used to determine the above balances under US GAAP of 1.0990 and 1.0398 in 2001 and 2002, respectively.

d) Income taxes and employee profit sharing

For purposes of the reconciliation to US GAAP, the Company has applied Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109, which requires that deferred income taxes be determined using the liability method for all temporary differences between financial reporting amounts and the tax basis of assets and liabilities, and that deferred taxes on such differences be measured at the enacted income tax rates for the year in which such taxes are expected to be payable or refundable.

Mexican Accounting Bulletin D-4, "Deferred Income Tax," became effective on January 1, 2000. Under Bulletin D-4, all deferred income taxes, including those arising from recurring temporary differences between book and taxable income, and the tax effects of tax loss carryforwards, have been recognized in the financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003. Such deferred income taxes have been calculated under the assets and liability method that compares the book and tax values of the Company's assets and liabilities. From this comparison temporary differences are determined based on enacted tax rates.

Deferred employee profit sharing expense or benefit is calculated in a manner similar to deferred income taxes under US GAAP, however, employee profit sharing expense would be considered as a component of operating expenses.

## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

## AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

## 13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

The portion of deferred taxes attributable to the excess of indexed costs over replacement cost and the effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries have been reflected as an adjustment to the deficit from restatement of stockholders' equity. As a result, under US GAAP deferred income taxes (benefit) charged directly to the deficit from restatement of stockholders' equity was Ps. 43,242, Ps. (15,025) and Ps. (29,238) for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

Income before income taxes under US GAAP for the Company's domestic and foreign operations was as follows:

	2001	2002	2003
Income before income taxes:			
Domestic	Ps. 186,933	Ps. 50,074	Ps. 51,575
Foreign	7,191	27,009	7,278
	Ps. 194,124	Ps. 77,083	Ps. 58,853
Current provision for income and asset taxes:			
Domestic	Ps. 16,654	Ps. 19,265	Ps. 21,105
Foreign	439	1,032	-
	Ps. 17,093	Ps. 20,297	Ps. 21,105
Deferred income tax expense (benefit):			
Domestic	Ps.(6,739)	Ps.(36,403)	Ps. ( 1,963)
Foreign	-	-	-
	Ps.( 6,739)	Ps.( 36,403)	Ps. ( 1,963)

Total income tax expense (benefit)	Ps. 10,354	Ps. (16,106)	Ps. 19,142

## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

## AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

## 13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

The material components of the net deferred income tax liabilities at December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 under US GAAP consisted of the following:

	2001	2002	2003
Deferred income tax liabilities:			
Inventories	Ps. 128,766	Ps. 122,295	Ps. 175,429
Property, plant and equipment	397,933	370,979	361,005
Foreign subsidiaries deferred tax liabilities and effect of translation	24,530	51,207	41,643
Total deferred income tax liabilities	551,229	544,481	578,077
Deferred income tax assets:			
Tax loss carryforwards	214,268	190,180	183,540
Asset tax paid	40,589	45,277	50,124
Other	20,959	15,701	10,950
Total deferred income tax assets	275,816	251,158	244,614
Valuation allowance	( 149,049)	( 110,333)	( 118,919)
Total deferred income tax assets	126,767	140,827	125,695
Net deferred income tax liabilities under US GAAP	424,462	,656	452,382
Less:			



Net deferred income tax liabilities under Mexican GAAP	( 335,357)	( 346,174)	( 442,623)
Effect of translation of foreign Subsidiaries (1)	20,225	9,204	-
Adjustment to net deferred tax liabilities	Ps. 109,330	Ps. 66,686	Ps. 9,759
Current year adjustment to net deferred income tax liabilities to reconcile to US GAAP	Ps. 6,740	Ps.( 42,644)	Ps. ( 56,927)
Less change in deferred income taxes recorded in deficit from restatement of stockholders' equity	( 43,242)	15,025	29,238
Adjustment to deferred income tax expense (benefit) under US GAAP	Ps.( 36,502)	Ps.( 27,619)	Ps. ( 27,689)

(1) Represents the difference associated with the net deferred tax liabilities under Mexican (see sub note a)

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

e) Employee profit sharing

Subsidiaries in Mexico with employees have a statutory obligation to pay their employees a share of their profits that is determined based on 10% of earnings determined in accordance with Mexican labor and income tax laws. Deferred employee profit sharing expense or benefit is calculated, under US GAAP, in a manner similar to deferred income taxes, however, employee profit sharing expense is considered a component of operating expenses. At December 31, 2001 and 2002, the net deferred employee profit sharing liabilities determined under US GAAP were Ps. 140,536 and Ps. 169,877, respectively.

In December 2003, Interceramic and its Mexican subsidiaries implemented a workforce restructuring plan that transferred all of their respective employees to service companies. There was no cost to the subsidiaries associated

with the transfer of the employees to these service companies. As a result of this restructuring the Mexican companies that had previously recorded deferred employee profit sharing liabilities were able to reverse these liabilities because they no longer have any obligation to these former employees with respect to employee profit sharing.

f) Variable capital shares

Under Mexican GAAP, the variable portion of Interceramic's common stock is classified as a component of stockholders' equity. Under US GAAP, the variable portion of the common stock is considered temporary equity and has been deducted from stockholders' equity to reflect the optional redemption available to the holders of these shares.

g) Employee stock purchase trust

Under Mexican GAAP, the amount contributed to the Trust established in connection with the Plan is carried as an asset in anticipation of repayment upon the exercise of the stock options by employees. Under US GAAP, this amount is deducted from stockholders' equity to reflect the subscription receivable due to the Company upon exercise of the options.

For purposes of Mexican GAAP, no compensation expense has been recorded by the Company with respect to these share transactions or with respect to the dividends on stock held by the trust. Under US GAAP, compensation expense is recognized for the difference, if any, between the exercise price of the shares and their market value, on the respective dates the options were granted and shares held by the trust were allocated to employees. The exercise price of each option is equal to the market prices of the Interceramic stock on the date of grant.

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INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

In August 2002, the Company repriced options to acquire 647,000 Units from Ps. 17.00 to Ps. 12.15 per Unit. Under US GAAP, as a result of reducing the exercise price, the options are subject to variable accounting from the date of modification to the date the options are exercised, are forfeited or expire unexercised. Under variable accounting estimates of compensation expense are recorded based on the quoted market price of the stock at intervening dates and the vesting periods associated with the options. The estimated compensation expense may fluctuate because of changes in quoted market price of the stock. Therefore, the accounting for a variable plan requires the recomputation of estimated compensation expense until the measurement date. No additional compensation expense, however, would be recorded by the Company during the years ended December 31, 2002 because the market price of the Units at December 31, 2002 was less than the repriced exercise price.

SFAS No. 123, "Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation," requires presentation of pro forma information as if the Company had accounted for its employee stock options granted, under the fair value method of that statement. For purposes of pro forma disclosure, the estimated fair value of the options at the date of the grant is amortized to expense over the vesting period. Under the fair value method, the Company's US GAAP net income and net income per Unit would have been as follows:

	Years ended December 31,		
	2001	2002	2003
Net income	Ps. 204,245	Ps. 62,965	Ps. 206,690
Net income per Unit	Ps. 3.53	Ps. 1.12	Ps. 4.17

The fair values of the options granted were determined using a Black-Scholes option-pricing method with the following assumptions:

	2001	2002	2003
Dividend yield	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
Volatility	47%	32%	47%
Risk-free interest rate	7.44%	7.18%	7.44%
Expected life in years	3	5	5
Fair value per Unit	5.02	3.54	3.61

#### h) Minority Interest

Under Mexican GAAP, the minority interest in consolidated subsidiaries is presented as a separate component within the stockholders' equity section in the consolidated balance sheet. For US GAAP purposes, the minority interest is not included in stockholders' equity.

#### i) Tax benefit of stock issuance cost

In 1994, the Company charged costs relating to an issuance of equity directly to equity. The tax benefit of such costs would also be charged to equity under US GAAP.

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## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

### AND SUBSIDIARIES

#### Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

## j) Earnings per share

Earnings per share ("EPS") are computed according to Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 128, "Earnings per Share." Basic EPS is computed by dividing net earnings by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding, excluding stock option plan shares. Diluted EPS is computed by dividing net earnings by the sum of the weighted average number of common shares outstanding, including stock-option shares that are potentially dilutive. Under Mexican GAAP Units subscribed and issued to the stock option Trust are considered outstanding for purposes of calculating earnings per Unit. For US GAAP purposes the basic weighted average number of Units outstanding excludes the average number of Units held by the Trust while the diluted weighted average number of Units outstanding includes the dilutive Units held by the Trust. Units held by the Trust have a dilutive effect only when the average market price of the Units during the year exceeds the exercise price of the options.

The computation of basic and diluted earnings per share for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

	2001	2002	2003
Numerator:			
Net income under US GAAP	Ps. 206,966	Ps. 63,848	Ps. 209,588
Preferred stock dividends	( 688)	( 557)	( 491)
Numerator for basic earnings per share	Ps. 206,278	Ps. 63,291	Ps. 209,097
Preferred stock dividends	688	557	491
Numerator for diluted earnings per share	Ps. 206,966	Ps. 63,848	Ps. 209,588
Denominator:			
Basic weighted average Units outstanding (in thousands)	56,684	55,973	48,352
Employee stock options	1,144	32	-
Diluted weighted average Units outstanding (in thousands)	57,828	55,941	48,352
Basic net income per Unit	Ps. 3.65	Ps. 1.14	Ps. 4.31
Diluted net income per Unit	Ps. 3.65	Ps. 1.14	Ps. 4.31

## Disclosure about fair value of financial instruments

In accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 107, "Disclosures about Fair Value of Financial Instruments," under US GAAP, information is provided about the fair value of certain financial instruments. The estimated fair value of a financial instrument is the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties.

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 INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

AND SUBSIDIARIES

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands

of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share,

market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

The following methods and assumptions are used to estimate the fair value of financial instruments including:

Cash and cash equivalents carrying amounts approximate fair value because of the short maturity of such instruments.

The fair value of notes payable to banks and long-term debt is based on current rates offered for similar debt. At December 31, 2002 and 2003, the fair value of notes payable to banks and long-term debt was Ps 1,257,250 (US \$116,378) and Ps. 1,178,244 (US \$104,873), respectively.

Restrictions from debt obligations

The Company has certain restrictions from debt obligations on its capital stock and retained earnings such as limitations on its ability to declare or pay dividends or make distribution on or with respect to its capital stock, limitations on purchase, redemption or other wise retire or acquire for value capital stock, maintenance of certain financial ratios and restrictions on encumbrances of assets and creation indebtedness. At December 31, 2002 and 2003, the retained earnings not available for distribution amounted to Ps. 293,229 and Ps. 325,446, respectively

Advertising

The Company expenses advertising costs as they are incurred. Total advertising expenses charged to operations were approximately Ps. 55,636, Ps. 56,983 and Ps. 49,867 in 2001, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

Research and development expenditures

The Company had research and development expenditures of Ps 21,248 in 2003, while in 2002 and 2001 the expenditures for research and development were Ps. 22,193 and Ps. 25,689, respectively.

Write-off of assets and other expenses

In accordance with Mexican GAAP, the following costs and expenses were recorded in the components entitled "other expenses" or "write-off of assets" after operating income:

	For the years ended December 31,		
	2001	2002	2003
Severance paid to employees	Ps. 7,385	Ps. 10,216	Ps. 7,995
Write off of assets	44,010	-	-
	Ps. 51,395	Ps. 10,216	Ps. 7,995

Under US GAAP, these costs and expenses would be included in operating expenses.

## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

## AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

## 13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

## Asset impairment

Long-lived assets to be held and used are recorded at cost. Management reviews long-lived assets and related intangible assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of such assets may not be recoverable. Recoverability of these assets is determined by comparing the forecasted, undiscounted net cash flows of the operation to which the assets relate to the carrying amount including associated long-lived assets of such operation. If the operation is determined to be unable to recover the carrying amount of its assets, an impairment loss shall be reduce the carrying amount of long-lived assets on a pro-rata basis using the relative carrying amounts of those assets. For 2001, 2002 and 2003, due to ongoing profitable operations, no long-lived asset impairment evaluation was considered necessary.

*Selected financial data under US GAAP*

Summarized consolidated financial information, on a US GAAP basis, as of and for the years ended December

31, 2000 and 2001 after restatement to present all amounts in thousands of constant Pesos of equivalent purchasing power based upon the NCPI ( see sub note c ) as of December 31, 2003:

	2001	2002	2003
<u>At December 31,</u>			
Current assets	Ps. 1,224,655	Ps. 1,299,072	Ps. 1,371,913
Non-current assets	1,931,740	2,074,935	2,101,836
Current liabilities	1,506,056	883,468	959,556
Non-current liabilities	1,142,643	1,892,114	1,741,109
Minority interest	147,569	163,956	211,025
<u>Year ended December 31,</u>			
Sales	2,973,741	3,180,489	3,424,926
Cost of sales	1,947,772	2,032,695	2,252,430
Operating Income	258,438	273,120	213,108
Net income	206,996	63,848	209,588

## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

## AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

## 13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

## Cash flow information

Under US GAAP, a statement of cash flows is prepared based on the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 95 "Statement of Cash Flows" ("SFAS No. 95") in lieu of a statement of changes in financial position required by Mexican GAAP. SFAS No. 95 establishes specific presentation requirements and requires additional disclosures, such as the amount of interest and income taxes paid and other non-cash items. This statement does not provide specific guidance for the preparation of cash flows for price level adjusted financial statements.

Cash flows from operating, investing and financing activities have been adjusted for the effects of inflation or monetary items.

Below are the consolidated statements of cash flow prepared in accordance with US GAAP:

	Year ended December 31		
	2001	2002	2003
Net income	Ps. 206,964	Ps. 63,848	Ps. 209,588
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:			
Depreciation	142,802	155,797	175,645
Depreciation per NCPI	26,052	17,330	3,622
Write off of assets	45,113	-	-
Deferred income tax US GAAP	(36,502)	( 27,619)	( 27,689)
Deferred Income Tax	29,763	(8,784)	25,726
Deferred employee profit sharing	( 23,226)	29,337	( 169,856)

Minority net income (loss)	( 4,750)	17,060	42,125
Exchange (loss) gain	( 56,434)	156,776	105,871
Allowance for doubtful accounts	3,366	( 1,098)	( 5,664)
Inflation effect on financing activities	( 58,354)	( 52,875)	( 51,172)
	274,794	349,772	308,196
Changes in:			
Accounts receivable	Ps.( 52,492)	Ps.( 67,010)	Ps. 13,301
Inventories	9; 116,550	(333,280)	(182,126)
Other assets	( 14,425)	( 22,681)	( 27,114)
Accounts payable to suppliers	( 44,884)	162,533	( 26,848)
Other accounts payable	( 84,172)	( 28,617)	( 35,632)
Other	2,687	931	4,437
Total adjustments	(76,556)	(288,125)	(253,982)
Net cash provided by operating activities	198,239	61,647	54,214
Investing activities			
Increase of property, plant and equipment	( 108,884)	( 176,959)	( 133,936)
Net cash used in investing activities	( 108,884)	( 176,959)	( 133,936)

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## INTERNACIONAL DE CERAMICA, S.A. DE C.V.

## AND SUBSIDIARIES

## Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003 and thousands of United States Dollars, except for number of shares and Units, minimum dividend per share, market value per Unit and exchange rates, which are stated in Pesos)

## 13. Differences between Mexican and United States generally accepted accounting principles (continued)

	Year ended December 31		
	2001	2002	2003
Financing activities			



Repurchase of capital stock	Ps. -	Ps. ( 61,066)	Ps. ( 53,293)
Minority stockholders' refund	( 15,331)	-	-
Minority stockholders' dividends	( 6,935)	( 6,241)	( 25,761)
Proceeds from long-term debt and bank loans	68,120	1,325,221	512,259
Repayment of long-term debt and bank loans	( 102,209)	( 1,424,786)	( 468,911)
Net cash (used) provided by financing activities	( 56,355)	( 166,872)	( 35,706)
Effect of inflation accounting	46,020	150,677	75,527
(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	79,019	(131,507)	( 39,901)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	143,439	222,458	90,950
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year (1)	Ps. 222,458	Ps. 90,950	Ps. 51,049
Supplemental cash flow disclosures:			
Interest paid	Ps. 123,350	Ps. 128,771	Ps. 64,400
Income taxes paid	Ps. 9,551	Ps. 36,240	Ps. 24,516

(1) Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2001 and 2002 do not agree with amounts under Mexican GAAP due to the effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries as discussed in Note 1a.

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Report of Independent Auditors

on

Financial Statement Schedules

The Board of Directors

Internacional de Ceramica, S.A. de C.V. and Subsidiaries

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Internacional de Ceramica, S.A. de C.V. and Subsidiaries (collectively, the "Company") as of December 31, 2002 and 2003, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2003. and have issued our report thereon dated February 9, 2004 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2003 (the "Form 20-F"). Our audit also included the financial statement schedules listed in Item 19(b) of the Form 20-F. These schedules are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our audit of the Company.

In our opinion, the financial statement schedules referred to above, when considered in relation to the Financial Statements taken as whole, present fairly in all material respects the information set forth therein.

Mancera, S.C.

Mancera, S.C.

& Young International

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Member of Ernst

Chihuahua, Chih., Mexico

June 30, 2004

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Schedule 1 - Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V.

Condensed statements of income

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003)

	Years ended December 31,		
	2001	2002	2003
Net sales	Ps 1,434,115	Ps 1,450,469	Ps 1,415,016
Cost of sales	(967,439)	(1,002,264)	(1,044,494)
9;			
9;			
Gross profit	466,676	448,205	370,522
Selling and administrative expenses	(228,626)	(266,011)	(223,074)
Operating income	238,050	182,194	147,448
Comprehensive financing cost:			
Interest income	11,834	11,434	7,870
Interest expense	(119,011)	(96,769)	(71,259)
Exchange gain (loss), net	51,930	(157,155)	(88,873)
Net monetary effect	46,677	33,733	36,582
	(8,570)	(208,757)	(115,680)



Total resources provided

by operating activities	Ps	308,721	Ps	(113,548)	Ps	230,166
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Financing activities:

Repurchase of capital stock		-		(62,735)		(53,293)
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Increase in short and long-term debt		9,538		1,187,520		154,640
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Payment of short and long-term debt		(81,018)		(1,115,765)		(245,724)
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Inflation effects on financing

activities		(21,797)		(100,040)		(78,036)
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Exchange gain (loss) generated by

debt payments		(49,174)		132,933		89,237
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Resources used in

financing activities		(142,451)		41,913		(133,176)
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Investing activities:

Purchases of property, plant

and equipment, net		(80,836)		(81,421)		(98,160)
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Resources used in investing activities

		(80,836)		(81,421)		(98,160)
--	--	----------	--	----------	--	----------

Net increase (decrease) in cash and

cash equivalents	85,434	(153,056)	(1,170)
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Cash and cash equivalents at

beginning of year	86,219	171,653	18,597
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Cash and cash equivalents at

end of year	Ps 171,653	Ps 18,597	Ps 17,427
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Schedule 1 - Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V.

Condensed Balance Sheets

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003)

-

December 31,

2002

2003

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Assets

## Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	Ps	18,597	Ps	17,427
Accounts receivable:				
Trade - Net		109,969		115,193
Related parties		584,988		360,878
Other accounts receivable		82,688		39,443
Inventories - Net		310,640		414,780
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total current assets		1,106,882		947,721
		<hr/>		<hr/>
Investment in subsidiaries		558,943		599,442
Property, plant and equipment, net		1,021,161		1,124,273
Long term related parties		69,470		56,175
Other assets		53,034		68,655
		<hr/>		<hr/>

Total assets	<u>Ps 2,809,490</u>	<u>Ps 2,796,266</u>
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Schedule 1 - Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V.

Condensed Balance Sheets

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003)

-

December 31,

2002

2003

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Liabilities and Stockholder's equity

Current liabilities:

Notes payable to banks	Ps 77,688	Ps 180,145
Current portion of long-term debt	199,768	204,339
Related parties	18,489	55,407
Other accounts payable	319,342	231,030
	_____	_____



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Total current liabilities	615,287	670,921
Long-term debt	945,274	758,363
Labor obligations	3,731	-
Deferred income tax	296,338	369,222
	_____	_____
Total liabilities	1,860,630	1,798,506
	_____	_____
Stockholders' equity		
Capital stock	724,810	720,190
Premium common stock	1,259,883	1,259,883
Stock repurchase reserve	182,426	133,753
Retained earnings	293,229	325,446
Other comprehensive income (loss)	(1,511,488)	(1,441,512)
	_____	_____
Total stockholders equity	948,860	997,760
	_____	_____
Total liabilities and stockholders equity	<u>Ps 2,809,490</u>	<u>Ps 2,796,266</u>

## Schedule 1 - Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Internacional de Ceramica, S.A. de C.V.

## Statements of Operations

(Thousands of constant Mexican pesos as of December 31, 2003)

	Common Stock	Premium on common stock	Stock Repurchase Reserve	Retained Earnings	Other comprehensive income (loss)	Comprehensive Income	Total stockholder' equity
Balance at December 31, 2001	Ps. 730,103	Ps. 1,259,883	Ps. 28,001	Ps. 412,091	Ps. ( 1,546,793)		Ps. 883,285
Increase of stock repurchase reserve	-	-	211,869	(211,869)	-	-	-
Repurchase of common stock	(5,293)	-	(57,444)	-	-	-	(62,737)
Comprehensive income (loss):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net income	-	-	-	93,007	-	93,007	93,007
Result from holding nonmonetary assets	-	-	-	-	8,977	8,977	8,977
Result from translation of foreign subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	26,328	<u>26,328</u>	26,328
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	<u>Ps. 128,312</u>	-
Balance at December 31, 2002	Ps. 724,810	Ps. 1,259,883	Ps. 182,426	Ps. 293,229	Ps. (1,511,488)		Ps. 948,860
Repurchase of common stock	(4,620)	-	(48,673)	-	-	-	(53,293)
Comprehensive income ( loss):	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Net income	-	-	-	32,217	-	32,217	32,217
Minimum pension liability	-	-	-	-	(1,024)	(1,024)	(1,024)
Result from holding nonmonetary assets	-	-	-	-	52,206	52,206	52,206
Result from translation of foreign subsidiaries	-	-	-	-	18,794	<u>18,794</u>	18,794
Comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	<u>Ps. 102,193</u>	-
Balance at December 31, 2003	Ps. 720,190	Ps. 1,259,883	Ps. 133,753	Ps. 325,446	Ps. ( 1,441,512)		Ps. 997,760

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Schedule 1 - Condensed Financial Information of Registrant

Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V.

Notes to Condensed Financial Statements

(Thousands Constant Mexican pesos as of December 31, 2003)

1. Basis of presentation

The Company's investments in subsidiaries are valued using the equity method since the date of acquisition. These condensed financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Company's consolidated financial statements.

2. Related Parties

In the normal course of business, the Company has transactions with affiliated companies. Affiliated companies are those in which the Company's stockholders have significant equity interest or control of management. The main transactions with these companies consist of ceramic tile sales for resale in Mexico and in the United States. Such transactions are negotiated on terms and prices comparable to similar transactions with other non-related customers.

In the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002 and 2003, the Company had the following transactions with related parties:

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2001

2002

2003 9;

Sales of ceramic tile:

Affiliated companies:

Grupo Comercial Interceramic,

S.A. de C.V.	Ps. 142,493	Ps. 172,179	Ps. 152,034
--------------	-------------	-------------	-------------

Materiales Arquitectónicos y

Decorativos, S.A. de C.V.	70,934	69,099	73,218 9;
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Subsidiary companies:

Distribución Interceramic,

S.A. de C.V.	233,664	313,277	311,499
--------------	---------	---------	---------

9; 9;

Interacabados del Occidente,

S.A. de C.V.	88,578	117,656	118,404
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Interceramic, Inc.	186,105	165,036	123,514
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Joint venture partner:

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Dal-Tile International, Inc.	<u>8,722</u>	<u>5,996</u>	<u>6,414</u>
	<u>Ps. 730,496</u>	<u>Ps. 843,243</u>	<u>Ps. 785,083</u>
-			
-			
-			
-			
-			
	_____		
	9; 9; 2001	2002	2003
9;	_____	_____	_____
Services provided	<u>Ps. 72,145</u>	<u>Ps. 75,476</u>	<u>Ps. 68,655</u>
Inventory purchases	<u>Ps. 113,816</u>	<u>Ps. 87,711</u>	<u>Ps. 96,912</u>
Fees paid for administrative services			
and other items	<u>Ps. 23,742</u>	<u>Ps. 24,767</u>	<u>Ps. 24,012</u>

Under agreements with its subsidiaries Recubrimientos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V. and Adhesivos y Boquillas Interceramic, S. de R.L. de C.V., the Company provides certain favorable terms and services regarding the sale of these subsidiaries' products through the Company's franchise distribution network in Mexico. In addition, the Company apportions certain sales, administrative and research and development expenses among these companies based upon comparative sales expressed in Pesos.

Fees paid relate to management consulting, the use of computer systems, maintenance of equipment and air-taxi service provided by related companies.

An analysis of accounts due to and from related parties as of December 31, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_

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	2002	2003 9;
	_____	_____
Trade:		
Grupo Comercial Interceramic,		
S. A. de C.V.	Ps 30,854	Ps 20,951 9;
Materiales Arquitectónicos y		
Decorativos, S. A. de C. V.	10,187	9,042 9;
Dal-Tile International, Inc.	1,219	1,423
Interceramic, Inc.	260,191	31,203
Distribución Interceramic,		
S.A. de C.V.	213,502	205,123
Interacabados del Occidente, S.A. de C.V.	73,745	70,647
Recubrimientos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.	1,633	9,999
Adhesivos y Boquillas Interceramic,		
S. de R.L. de C.V.	(8,550)	(21,278)
Servicios Administrativos Interceramic,		
S.A. de C.V	-	31,195
Others :		
Interceramic, Inc	-	1,939
Materiales en Proceso, S.A. de C.V.	2,181	443
Others	26	191
	_____	_____

Ps 584,988      Ps 360,878

-

2002	2003 9;

Long term related parties:

Interceramic, Inc.	Ps	69,470	Ps	56,175
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Accounts payable:

Interceramic, Inc.		4,989		6,181
Recubrimientos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.		10		55
Adhesivos y Boquillas Interceramic, S. de R.L. de C.V.		26		70
Distribución Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.		49		-
Kohler Co.		8,786		7,075
Materiales en Proceso, S.A. de C.V.		3,821		417
Servicios Administrativos Interceramic, S.A. de C.V.		-		39,911

Others 808 1,698

Ps. 18,489 Ps. 55,407

3. Long term debt

Long term debt consisted of the following at December 31, 2002 and 2003:

<u>2002</u>					
rates	Type of loan	Amount	Current portion of long-term debt	Long-term	Interest
Unsecured 4.50%		Ps. 22,452	Ps. 22,452	Ps. -	
Secured 3.87 %		1,117,386	174,029	943,357	
	Total bank loans	1,139,838	196,481	943,357	
	Notes due to suppliers 5.00 %	5,204	3,287	1,917	9;
		<u>Ps. 1,145,042</u>	<u>Ps. 199,768</u>	<u>Ps. 945,274</u>	



2003					
rates	Type of loan	Amount	Current portion of long-term debt	Long-term	Interest
3.43%	Syndicated	Ps. 960,761	Ps. 202,398	Ps. 758,363	
	Total bank loans	960,761	202,398	758,363	
5.00%	Notes due to suppliers	1,941	1,941	-	
		Ps. 962,702	Ps. 204,339	Ps. 758,363	

At December 31, 2002 and 2003, all bank loans are denominated in United States Dollars. The syndicated loan and all secured loans are collateralized by property, plant and equipment with a value of Ps 1,158,352 and Ps 1,288,803 at December 31, 2002 and 2003, respectively.

In August 2001, the Company obtained long term supplier financing from Oracle to purchase software in the amount of Ps 8,165 (US \$888). The agreement requires monthly payments of principal and interest through June 2004.

In June 2002, the Company entered into a syndicated loan agreement (the "Credit Agreement") with several financial institutions and Scotiabank Inverlat, S.A., as administrative agent, for US \$100,000, US \$90,000 of which was used to repay the Company's then-outstanding US \$90,000 Eurobond and the remainder applied for working capital purposes. The loan is divided into two tranches: "Term A Loans" for US \$40,000 with a three-year maturity and interest at LIBOR plus from 1.70% to 2.20%, based upon the level of certain financial ratios, and "Term B Loans" for US \$60,000 with a five-year maturity and interest at LIBOR plus from 2.30% to 2.80%, also based upon certain ratios. This loan is collateralized by land, buildings and equipment, accounts receivable, inventory and shares owned by the Company in a joint venture. The Company's subsidiaries Distribucion Interceramic, S.A. de C.V., Interacabados del Occidente, S.A.de C.V., and Interceramic, Inc., also provided guarantees for this loan.

At December 31, 2003, future maturities of long-term liabilities were as follows:

Years Ended

December 31

2005	Ps	224,700
2006		252,788
2007		280,875
	Ps	758,363

The syndicated loan and outstanding bank loan agreements establish certain obligations and restrictive covenants with respect to certain transactions including the payment of cash dividends, mergers and combinations, the disposal of fixed assets, information reporting requirements and others. In addition, the Company is required to maintain certain financial ratios. Prior to September 30, 2003, the Company reached agreement with its lenders on a series of amendments to the Credit Agreement which were completed as of October 31, 2003. These amendments consist basically in new covenant ratios and additional interest depending on the Company's ability to meet certain financial ratios.

At December 31, 2003, the Company was in compliance with all obligations and restrictions established by these agreements.

#### 4. Stockholders' equity

During the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2003, options to purchase 33,000 and 8,000 Limited Voting Units were exercised, at an average price of Ps. 13.96 and Ps. 12.30 per Unit, respectively.

The weighted exercise price of options that expired in 2002 and 2003, was Ps.13.33 and Ps. 12.27, respectively.

#### 5. Income taxes and employee profit sharing

The Company periodically evaluates the possibility of recovering deferred tax assets and if necessary, adjusts the related valuation reserve.

In conformity with Bulletin D-4, deferred employee profit sharing is recognized only on temporary differences determined in the reconciliation of current year net income for financial and tax reporting purposes, provided there is no indication that the related liability or asset will not be realized in the future.

Current year employee profit sharing is charged to results of operations and represents a current liability due and payable in a period of less than one year.

Asset tax, which is a minimum income tax, is payable based on the average value of most assets net of certain liabilities. Because income tax may be credited against asset tax, the latter is actually payable only to the extent that it exceeds current year income tax.

Current year income tax is charged to results of operations and represents the tax liability due and payable in less than one year.

Employee profit sharing is a statutory obligation payable to employees which is determined in accordance with the provisions of both Mexican labor law and the Mexican income tax law

<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Current year income tax expense	Ps -	Ps -
Deferred income tax expense (benefit)	41,943	(8,370)
<u>20,471</u>	<u>Ps 41,943</u>	<u>Ps (8,370)</u>
<u>20,471</u>	<u>Ps 41,943</u>	<u>Ps (8,370)</u>

An analysis of the effects of temporary differences on deferred tax liabilities (assets) at December 31, 2002 and 2003 is as follows:

	2002	2003
	_____	_____
Deferred income tax liabilities		
Inventories	Ps 63,236	Ps 110,144
Foreign subsidiaries deferred		
tax liabilities	9; 9; 10,510	31,791
Fixed assets	243,123	269,519
	_____	_____
	316,869	#9; #9; 411,454
	_____	_____
Deferred income tax assets		
Reserve for doubtful accounts	1,236	369
Liability provisions	8,673	5,812
Tax losses from prior years	11,870	42,121
	_____	_____
	(21,779)	( 48,302)
	_____	_____
Less: valuation allowance for		
tax loss carryforwards	<u>1,248</u>	<u>6,070</u>

Net Deferred income tax liabilities      Ps 296,338      Ps 369,222

The portion of deferred taxes attributable to the excess of indexed costs over replacement cost and the effect of translation of foreign subsidiaries on deferred income tax charged to the statement of income is as follows:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Deferred income tax	Ps 14,933	Ps 72,884
Less:		
Prior year restatement	25,199	13,122
Deferred income taxes in Procesadora		
de Materiales Cerro Grande before merger	(2,745)	-
Deferred income taxes recorded in deficit from		
restatement of stockholders' equity	(45,757)	(65,535)
Total deferred income taxes included in	_____	_____
statements of income	<u>Ps (8,370)</u>	<u>Ps 20,471</u>

## 6. Contingencies

The Company negotiated supply agreements to obtain a portion of its natural gas supply from PEMEX at a fixed price. The supply agreements were for the period from January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2003.

The Company is party to various claims, legal actions, and complaints arising in the ordinary course of business. In the opinion of independent lawyers, all such matters are without merit or are of such nature, or involve such amounts, that an unfavorable disposition would not have a material effect on the financial position or results of operations of the Company.

## 7. Subsequent events

On January 14, 2004, the shareholders approved a plan to acquire directly or indirectly, all of the issued and outstanding capital stock of Grupo Comercial Interceramic, S.A. de C.V and Materiales Arquitectonicos Decorativos, S.A. de C.V. These companies were owned by certain controlling stockholders of the Company. The aggregate purchase price for these companies is US \$15,800. The purchase of the companies was completed in March 2004.

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## Schedule II

Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V.

## Valuation and Qualifying Accounts

(Thousands of Constant Mexican Pesos as of December 31, 2003)

## Additions

Description	Balance at Beginning of Period	Charged to Costs and Expenses	Charged to Other Accounts	Deductions	Balance at End of Period
Allowance for doubtful accounts:					
Year ended December 31,					
2001	37,223	5,451	(1,392)	13,492*	27,790
2002	27,790	9,118	262	9,525*	27,646
2003	27,646	5,173	(218)	10,990*	21,611
Obsolete inventory:					
Year ended December 31,					
2001	59,478	20,404	(1,872)	6,666*	71,343
2002	71,343	13,134	(6,421)	8,472*	69,583
2003	69,583	16,062	(5,060)	15,197*	65,389

\*Write-off of accounts receivable and inventories.

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**Consent of Independent Auditors**

We consent to the incorporation by reference of in (i) the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-05162) and (ii) the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-07030) pertaining to the Employee's Stock Option Plans of our report dated February 9, 2004 with respect to the consolidated financial statements of Internacional de Ceramica, S.A. de C.V. (the "Company") included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2003.

Mancera, S.C.

Mancera, S.C.

A Member

Practice

Member of Ernst

& Young Global

Chihuahua, Chih., Mexico

June 30, 2004

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## CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Internacional de Cerámica, S.A. de C.V. (the "Company"), hereby resolves to adopt this "Code of Business Conduct and Ethics" (the "Code"), the purpose of which is to establish those fundamental principles which govern the professional and ethical conduct of each and every Director, Officer and Employee of the Company, each one of them adhering to these principles and conducting themselves at all times with honesty, integrity, diligence, impartiality, and good faith. Accordingly, the Board adopts the following principles:

### 1. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.-

Each of the Members of the Board and the Executives of the Company must fully disclose to the President, Secretary or Chief Executive Officer, any real or apparent conflict of interest, and if the real or apparent conflict of interest concerns the disclosing party, such party must abstain from any related decision making process. Similarly, any Employee who for any reason perceives a potential conflict of interest between any personal duties and any duties owed to the Company, must report any such potential conflict of interest to an immediate supervisor or Officer. While any conflict of interest will be resolved in an honest and impartial manner, the Company's well being will be of the utmost importance.

### 2. USE OF COMPANY ASSETS

.- The Company's assets, properties, services and proprietary information (the "Assets"), shall be utilized only in the furtherance of the stated Company objectives, and may only be used for the benefit of an individual if such personal use of the Assets is justified and approved of by the Board or by the Officer directly responsible for the use and allocation of the Assets in questions. Any use of the Assets in furtherance of personal business transactions or personal gains shall be avoided. It is the responsibility of each of the Members of the Board, the Officers and the Employees to supervise the Assets and ensure the correct use of the Assets, as it is their duty to report any abuse or incorrect use

of the Assets to the applicable person so that the appropriate corrective action may be taken.

3. CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES.-

Each of the Members of the Board, Officers and Employees of the Company may not attempt to capitalize on or obtain any personal gain or profit from any favorable business opportunities which may be available to the Company, and none of them will use any of the information available to them through their employment or position with the Company for their own personal gain. Furthermore, each of the Members of the Board, Officers and Employees of the Company will avoid any participation whatsoever in any activity that would result in any direct or indirect commercial competition with the Company.

CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS

4. TIME AND EFFORT.-

Each of the Members of the Board, Officers and Employees will dedicate the necessary time and effort to enable them to fulfill their duties and responsibilities to the Company, and each of them will actively collaborate with the Company's Management and its various divisions.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY.-

Each of the Members of the Board, Officers and Employees of the Company must maintain complete confidentiality as to any and all information which could have an impact on the operations of the Company and as to any and all information generated as a result of the day to day activities of the Company.

6. DUTY TO REMAIN INFORMED.-

Each of the Members of the Board, and their respective Alternates, must be knowledgeable and informed as to any matter which is brought before the Board at any Board Meeting.

7. PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.-

Each of the Members of the Board will contribute to the Management of the Company through their opinions, recommendations, insight and analysis, ensuring that any decisions made or actions taken on behalf of the Company are based on the criteria of qualified and professional personnel whose broad range of knowledge, both as it relates to the Company and independent of the Company, will be beneficial to the Company.

8. PUBLICATIONS AND DISCLOSURES.

- Each of the Members of the Board, Officers and Employees of the Company are responsible for full, fair, accurate, timely, and understandable publications, disclosures and information releases of the Company, whether created for or distributed to each other, to the Board, or to any applicable regulatory agency, clients, suppliers, investors, or shareholders.

9. FAIR DEALING.-

Each of the Members of the Board and the Officers of the Company shall espouse in themselves and in all of the Employees a spirit of fair dealing and shall act in good faith with all of the Company's clients, suppliers, competitors and any interested parties, avoiding the misuse of confidential information, self dealing, misrepresentations and any disloyal or unjust business practice.



CODE OF BUSINESS CONDUCT AND ETHICS

10. COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW.-

Each of the Members of the Board and the Officers of the Company must endeavor to conduct the daily operations of the Company in a manner which is in full compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations. Any illegal act will be severely sanctioned, whether the illegal act be committed by an Employee, an Officer, the Board or any Member of the Board. Similarly, any unethical act or moral violation of this Code will be severely sanctioned. The Board will instill in each Employee the duty and responsibility to report any illegal or unethical acts.

11. VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE.-

If a violation of any provision or principle espoused under this Code becomes apparent or is observed, it is the duty and responsibility of the Members of the Board, the Officers, and Employees of the Company to report any such violation to his or her immediate supervisor, and, if necessary, to the Board. The Board will investigate and evaluate each alleged violation and will determine the appropriate sanctions and corrective action deemed necessary based upon the severity of the violation, the harm caused to the Company by the violation, and based on the need to take corrective action.

12. WAIVER OR DEVIATIONS FROM THE CODE.-

The Company recognizes that, on rare occasions, the need to approve a deviation or waiver from the provisions of this Code may arise. The Board must approve any act or action which does not comply with, or violates the, requirements and principles of this Code. In the event that said act or action concerns a majority of the Members of the Board, a separate Committee comprised of Members of the Board who are not affected by the act or action in question will be formed, and said Committee will be responsible for determining whether or not to approve said act or action.

**13. AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE.-** Any amendment, modification or deviation to or from this Code must be approved by the Board and any such amendment, modification or deviation must be disclosed to the shareholders and to any interested parties through the appropriate medium and as required by the applicable rules and regulations.