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ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO /DE/  
Form S-8  
August 04, 2003

As filed on August 4, 2003  
Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER  
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware

31-1469076

(State or Other Jurisdiction of  
Incorporation or Organization)

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

6301 Fitch Path, New Albany, Ohio

43054

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO. 2002 STOCK PLAN FOR ASSOCIATES  
(as amended and restated May 22, 2003)

(Full Title of the Plan)

SETH R. JOHNSON  
Executive Vice President-Chief Operating Officer  
Abercrombie & Fitch Co.  
6301 Fitch Path  
New Albany, Ohio 43054

(Name and Address of Agent for Service)

Copy to:

Elizabeth Turrell Farrar, Esq.  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP  
52 East Gay Street, P.O. Box 1008  
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1008

(614) 283-6500

(Telephone Number, including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

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CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of Securities to be Registered(1) | Amount to be Registered | Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share(2) | Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2) |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| Class A Common Stock, \$.01 par value   | 2,000,000 shares        | \$32.23                                      | \$64,460,000                                 |

(1) This Registration Statement also covers related Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock Purchase Rights (the "Rights") which evidence the right to purchase under certain conditions, one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$.01 par value. Registrant is required to deliver .50 Right, subject to adjustment, with each share of Class A Common Stock that becomes outstanding until the "distribution date" for the Rights, at which date the Rights will commence trading separately from the shares of Class A Common Stock.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rules 457(c) and (h) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and computed on the basis of \$32.23, the average of the high and low sales prices reported on the New York Stock Exchange on July 31, 2003.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference

Abercrombie & Fitch Co. (the "Registrant") hereby incorporates by reference into this Registration Statement the following documents filed by the Registrant with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"):

(a) The Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 1, 2003.

(b) The Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended May 3, 2003.

(c) The Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated July 22, 2003 and filed with the Commission on July 23, 2003.

(d) The description of the Registrant's Class A Common Stock, \$.01 par value, included in the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended August 3, 2002.

(e) The description of the Registrant's Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock Purchase Rights set forth in the Registrant's Form 8-A/A (Amendment No. 2) dated September 19, 2001 and filed with the Commission on that date, amending the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, dated July 21, 1998 and filed with the Commission on that date, as previously amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto, dated April 23, 1999 and filed with the Commission on April 26, 1999.

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All documents filed by the Registrant with the Commission after the date of this Registration Statement under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and before the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereunder pursuant to the Abercrombie & Fitch Co. 2002 Stock Plan for Associates (as amended and restated May 22, 2003) have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, will be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Information furnished or provided by the Registrant under Item 9 or Item 12 of any of the Registrant's Current Reports on Form 8-K is not incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement on Form S-8. The Registrant furnished information under Item 9 of the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K to the Commission on each of February 12, 2003 (which also included an exhibit furnished under Item 7), May 8, 2003 (which also included an exhibit furnished under Item 7), May 13, 2003 (the information being furnished was also deemed

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provided under Item 12 and included an exhibit furnished under Item 7), June 5, 2003 (which also included an exhibit furnished under Item 7), July 10, 2003 (which also included an exhibit furnished under Item 7), and July 11, 2003 (which also included an exhibit furnished under Item 7).

#### Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

#### Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

#### Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides for indemnification of directors and officers against any legal liability (other than liability arising from derivative suits) if the officer or director acted in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation. In criminal actions, the officer or director must also have had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful. A corporation may indemnify an officer or director in a derivative suit if the officer or director acted in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation unless the officer or director is found liable to the corporation. However, if the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought determines that the officer or director is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity, then the Court of Chancery or such other court may permit indemnity for such officer or director to the extent it deems proper.

The Registrant's Amended and Restated Bylaws provide generally that the Registrant is to indemnify its present and past directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the laws of Delaware as they may exist from time to time. Directors and officers of the Registrant and its subsidiaries are indemnified generally against expenses actually and reasonably incurred in connection with proceedings, whether civil or criminal. The Registrant's Amended and Restated Bylaws also provide that indemnification thereunder is not exclusive, and the Registrant may agree to indemnify any person as provided therein.

The Registrant's Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation provides

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that directors of the Registrant will not be held personally liable to the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages arising from certain breaches of their fiduciary duties. The provisions do not insulate directors from personal liability for (i) breaches of their duty of loyalty to the Registrant or its stockholders, (ii) acts or omissions not taken in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or knowing violation of law, (iii) transactions in which the director derives any improper personal benefit or (iv) unlawfully voting to pay dividends or to repurchase or redeem stock.

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The Registrant maintains insurance policies providing for indemnification of directors and officers and for reimbursement to the Registrant for monies which it may pay as indemnity to any director or officer, subject to the conditions and exclusions of the policies and specified deductible provisions.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

See Exhibit Index beginning on page 8.

Item 9. Undertakings.

A. The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
  - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
  - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement; and
  - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs A(1)(i) and A(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- B. The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- C. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the provisions described in Item 6 of this Part II, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of New Albany, State of Ohio, on August 4, 2003.

ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO.

By /s/ Seth R. Johnson

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Seth R. Johnson,  
Executive Vice President-Chief  
Operating Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on August 4, 2003.

| Signature | Title |
|-----------|-------|
| -----     | ----- |

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\*  
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Michael S. Jeffries Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief  
Executive Officer (Principal Executive  
Officer)

/s/ Seth R. Johnson  
-----  
Seth R. Johnson Executive Vice President-Chief Operating  
Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting  
Officer) and Director

\*  
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James B. Bachmann Director

\*  
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Lauren J. Brisky Director

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Russell M. Gertmenian Director

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John A. Golden Director

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-----  
Archie M. Griffin Director

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-----  
John W. Kessler Director

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Sam N. Shahid, Jr. Director

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Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D. Director

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\*Seth R. Johnson, by signing his name hereto, signs this document on behalf of each of the individuals identified above pursuant to a power of attorney duly executed by each such individual and filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

By /s/ Seth R. Johnson

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Seth R. Johnson, Attorney-in-Fact

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EXHIBIT INDEX

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

| Exhibit No. | Description   |
|-------------|---|
| -----       | -----   |
| 4.1         | Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of the Registrant as filed with the Delaware Secretary of State on August 27, 1996, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended November 2, 1996. (File No. 1-12107)                          |
| 4.2         | Certificate of Designation of Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock of the Registrant as filed with the Delaware Secretary of State on July 21, 1998, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 30, 1999. (File No. 1-12107)      |
| 4.3         | Certificate of Decrease of Shares Designated as Class B Common Stock of the Registrant as filed with the Delaware Secretary of State on July 30, 1999, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.3 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended July 31, 1999. (File No. 1-12107)            |
| 4.4         | Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Registrant, effective January 31, 2002, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.4 to the Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2002. (File No. 1-12107)   |
| 4.5         | Rights Agreement, dated as of July 16, 1998, between the Registrant and First Chicago Trust Company of New York, as Rights Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated July 21, 1998. (File No. 1-12107)   |
| 4.6         | Amendment No. 1 to Rights Agreement, dated as of April 21, 1999, between the Registrant and First Chicago Trust Company of New York, as Rights Agent, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2 to the Registrant's Amendment No. 1 to Form 8-A dated April 23, 1999. (File No. 1-12107)   |
| 4.7         | Certificate of adjustment of number of Rights associated with each share of Class A Common Stock, dated May 27, 1999, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended July 31, 1999. (File No. 1-12107)   |
| 4.8         | Appointment and Acceptance of Successor Rights Agent, effective as of the opening of business on October 8, 2001, between the Registrant and National City Bank, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.6 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended August 4, 2001. (File No. 1-12107) |

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- 10.1 Abercrombie & Fitch Co. 2002 Stock Plan for Associates (as amended and restated May 22, 2003), incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.4 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended May 3, 2003 (File No. 1-12107).
- 15.1 Letter re: Unaudited Interim Financial Information to Securities and Exchange Commission re: Inclusion of Report of Independent Accountants.\*
- 23.1 Consent of Independent Accountants.\*
- 24.1 Powers of Attorney Executed by Directors and Certain Executive Officers of Abercrombie & Fitch Co.\*

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\* Filed herewith.

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