

J C PENNEY CO INC
 Form 424B5
 September 30, 2013
Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

SEC File No. 333-188106-01

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Maximum Offering Price per Share	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common stock of 50¢ par value	96,600,000(1)	\$9.65	\$932,190,000	\$127,150.72(2)
Preferred Stock Purchase Rights(3)				

- (1) Includes shares of common stock that may be purchased by the underwriter upon exercise of the underwriter's option to purchase additional shares.
- (2) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (3) Represents the right to purchase one one-thousandth of a share of preferred stock of the Registrant, which is attached to each issued and outstanding share of common stock of 50¢ par value of the Registrant, pursuant to the terms of the Registrant's Rights Agreement, dated August 22, 2013. Until the occurrence of prescribed events, the rights are not exercisable, are evidenced by the certificates for the common stock and will be transferred with and only with such common stock. As long as the rights are attached to the common stock, the Registrant will issue one right with each new share of common stock so that each share of common stock will have a right attached.

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated August 26, 2013)

84 million Shares

J. C. Penney Company, Inc.

COMMON STOCK

We are selling 84 million shares of our common stock.

Our shares of common stock trade on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) under the symbol JCP. On September 26, 2013, the last reported sale price of our shares of common stock on the NYSE was \$10.42 per share.

Investing in shares of our common stock involves risk. Before buying any shares, you should consider the risks that we have described in Risk Factors beginning on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement, as well as those described in our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and our other filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act).

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Per Share Total

Edgar Filing: J C PENNEY CO INC - Form 424B5

Initial price to public	\$ 9.6500	\$ 810,600,000
Underwriting discount	\$ 0.2900	\$ 24,360,000
Proceeds before expenses, to us	\$ 9.3600	\$ 786,240,000

In addition, we have granted Goldman, Sachs & Co. an option for a period of 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement to purchase up to 12.6 million additional shares of our common stock at the initial price to public less the underwriting discount.

Goldman, Sachs & Co. expects to deliver the shares against payment in New York, New York on October 1, 2013.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

The date of this prospectus supplement is September 26, 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prospectus Supplement

<u>IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT</u>	S-i
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	S-ii
<u>SUMMARY</u>	S-1
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	S-3
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	S-15
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	S-16
<u>PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK</u>	S-17
<u>DIVIDEND POLICY</u>	S-17
<u>U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS</u>	S-18
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	S-21
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	S-25
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	S-25
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	S-26
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-26

Prospectus

<u>IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	2
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	15
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	15
<u>DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS</u>	18
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	18
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	18
<u>EXPERTS</u>	19

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information, some of which may not apply to this offering. You should read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock. If the description of the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

We have not, and the underwriter has not, authorized anyone to provide any information other than that contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or in any free writing prospectus prepared by or on behalf of us to which we have referred you. We and the underwriter take no responsibility for, and can provide no assurance as to the reliability of, any other information that others may give you. Before purchasing any shares of common stock, you should carefully read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and

Table of Contents

any free writing prospectus with respect to this offering filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC), together with the additional information described under the heading Incorporation by Reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This document may only be used where it is legal to sell these securities. You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the respective dates of the prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and the documents incorporated herein by reference may contain forward-looking statements made within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, should, will, expects, intends, plans, anticipates, believes, estimates, or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Those risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the success of our transformation, the impact of changes designed to transform our business, competition and promotional activities, changes in merchandise styles and trends, changes in store traffic trends, maintaining an appropriate mix and level of inventory, the implementation of our new store layout, the availability of internal and external sources of liquidity, our failure to retain, attract and motivate our employees, the reduction and restructuring of our workforce, the impact of cost reduction initiatives, a systems failure and/or security breach that results in the theft, transfer or unauthorized disclosure of customer, employee or Company information, disruptions in our information technology systems or website, changes in our credit ratings, our failure to source and deliver merchandise in a timely and cost-effective manner, changes in our arrangements with our suppliers and vendors, restrictions under our revolving credit facility, potential asset impairment charges, risks associated with importing merchandise from foreign countries, economic and political conditions that impact consumer confidence and spending, the impact of holiday spending patterns and weather conditions, changes in federal, state or local laws and regulations, legal and regulatory proceedings, significant changes in discount rates, actual investment return on pension assets and other factors related to our qualified pension plan, the influence of our largest stockholders, the volatility of our stock price and our ability to use net operating loss carryforwards to offset future taxable income for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Additional information regarding these and other factors may be contained in our filings with the SEC, especially on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K. The list of factors identified above and in the aforementioned reports is not exhaustive and new factors may emerge or changes to these factors may occur that would impact our business. All such risk factors are difficult to predict and contain material uncertainties that may affect actual results and may be beyond our control.

We also used other factors and assumptions not identified above in deriving the forward-looking statements. Our failure to realize these other assumptions or the impact of the other factors may also cause actual results to differ materially from those projected.

All written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by the foregoing cautionary statement. You are cautioned not to rely on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or, where applicable, the accompanying prospectus or a document incorporated by reference. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We are under no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date hereof nor are we under any obligation to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, future events or developments, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting the forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights information more fully described elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Because this is a summary, it is not complete and does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in the shares of common stock. Before deciding to invest in the shares of common stock, you should carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the Securities and Exchange Commission filings that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto and the Risk Factors section in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended August 3, 2013, and the Risk Factors section in this prospectus supplement beginning on page S-3.

References in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to we, us, our, jcpenny or the Company refer to J. C. Penney Company, Inc. and its consolidated subsidiaries collectively, unless indicated otherwise.

Our Company

We were founded by James Cash Penney in 1902 and have grown to be a major retailer, operating 1,095 department stores in 49 states and Puerto Rico. Our business consists of selling merchandise and services to consumers through our department stores and through our website at jcp.com. Our department stores and website generally serve the same type of customers and provide virtually the same mix of merchandise, and department stores accept returns from sales made in stores and via the Internet. We sell family apparel and footwear, accessories, fine and fashion jewelry, beauty products through Sephora inside jcpenny and home furnishings. In addition, our department stores provide our customers with services such as styling salon, optical, portrait photography and custom decorating.

Recent Developments

jcpenny announced today that it is pleased with its progress thus far in the Company's turnaround efforts and the traction its initiatives are starting to achieve. Moreover, the Company said it is starting to see greater predictability in its performance across many areas. The Company continues to be encouraged by improvements in purchase conversion both in store and on jcp.com, primarily due to being back in stock in key items and sizes the customer expects to find at jcpenny. Overall sales on jcp.com continue to trend double digits ahead of last year. The Company still anticipates it will experience positive comparable store sales trends coming out of the third quarter and throughout the fourth quarter of 2013. Given the Company's current cash position, along with the undrawn portion of its credit facility, and not taking into account the net proceeds of this offering, the Company currently expects to end the year with approximately \$1.3 billion in overall liquidity. Taking into account the net proceeds from this offering, the Company's expected year-end liquidity is anticipated to increase by the amount of such net proceeds. However, there can be no assurances that we will achieve these expected results, and actual results may be materially less than our expectations. See Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Risk Factors elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

Our Corporate History and Information

On January 27, 2002, J. C. Penney Company, Inc. was reorganized into a holding company structure. As part of this restructuring, the former J. C. Penney Company, Inc., which was incorporated in 1924, changed its name to J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. and became a wholly-owned subsidiary of a newly formed affiliated holding company.

Our principal offices are located at 6501 Legacy Drive, Plano, Texas 75024. Our telephone number is (972) 431-1000. We maintain a web site on the Internet at www.jcp.com. Our web site, and the information contained on it, are not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

The Offering

The following summary of the offering contains basic information about the offering and our common stock and is not intended to be complete. It does not contain all the information that is important to you. For a more complete understanding of shares of our common stock, please refer to the section of the accompanying prospectus entitled "Description of Capital Stock - Common Stock."

Common stock offered by us	84.0 million shares
Underwriter's option to purchase additional shares from us	12.6 million shares
Common stock to be outstanding after this offering	Approximately 304.6 million shares (approximately 317.2 million shares if the underwriter's option to purchase additional shares is exercised in full)
Use of proceeds	We estimate that the net proceeds to us from this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated expenses of the offering, will be approximately \$785.8 million (or approximately \$903.8 million if the underwriter exercises its option in full). We intend to use the net proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes. See "Use of Proceeds."
Trading symbol	Our shares of common stock are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "JCP."
Dividend policy	We do not anticipate paying cash dividends on our shares of common stock in the foreseeable future. Any payment of cash dividends will depend on our financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements, earnings and other factors deemed relevant by our board of directors.
Risk factors	An investment in shares of our common stock involves certain risks. You should carefully consider the risks described under "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement, as well as those described in our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and the other information included or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including our financial statements and the notes thereto, before making an investment decision.
The number of shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering is based on approximately 220.6 million shares outstanding as of September 6, 2013, and excludes approximately 19.0 million shares of common stock underlying awards outstanding as of August 23, 2013 granted under our equity incentive plans.	

Unless otherwise indicated, all information in this prospectus supplement assumes no exercise of the underwriter's option to purchase an additional 12.6 million shares of our common stock from us.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investing in shares of our common stock involves risk. Please see the risk factors described below and those described in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended August 3, 2013, in each case which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You should consider carefully these risk factors together with all of the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you decide to purchase shares of our common stock. These risks and uncertainties are not the only ones facing us, and there may be additional matters that we are unaware of or that we currently consider immaterial. Any of these risks and uncertainties could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations, liquidity or prospects and, thus, the value of an investment in shares of our common stock.

Risks Related to Our Business

Our ability to return to profitable growth is subject to both the risks affecting our business generally and the inherent difficulties associated with shifting our strategic plan.

In fiscal 2012, we made changes to our strategies that resulted in a pronounced decline in sales and resulted in significant variability between our financial expectations and actual results. We began shifting our strategies in the first quarter of fiscal 2013, but it may take longer than expected or planned to recover from our negative sales trends and operating results, and actual results may be materially less than planned. Our ability to improve our operating results depends upon a significant number of factors, some of which are beyond our control, including:

customer response to our marketing and merchandise strategies;

our ability to respond to competitive pressures in our industry;

our ability to achieve profitable sales and to make adjustments in response to changing conditions;

our ability to benefit from capital improvements made to our store environment;

our ability to effectively manage inventory;

the success of our cost reduction initiatives;

our ability to respond to any unanticipated changes in expected cash flows, liquidity, cash needs and cash expenditures, including our ability to obtain any additional financing or other liquidity enhancing transactions, if and when needed;

our ability to achieve positive cash flow;

our ability to access adequate and uninterrupted supply of merchandise from suppliers at expected levels and on acceptable terms;
and

general economic conditions.

Edgar Filing: J C PENNEY CO INC - Form 424B5

There is no assurance that our pricing, branding, store layout, marketing and merchandising strategies, or any future adjustments to our strategies, will improve our operating results.

We operate in a highly competitive industry that includes significant promotional activity, which could adversely impact our sales and profitability.

The retail industry is highly competitive, with few barriers to entry. We compete with many other local, regional and national retailers for customers, employees, locations, merchandise, services and other important aspects of our business. Those competitors include other department stores, discounters, home furnishing stores, specialty retailers, wholesale clubs, direct-to-consumer businesses, including those on the Internet, and other forms of retail commerce. Some competitors are larger than jcpenny, and/or have greater financial resources

S-3

Table of Contents

available to them, and, as a result, may be able to devote greater resources to sourcing, promoting and selling their products. Competition is characterized by many factors, including merchandise assortment, advertising, price, quality, service, location, reputation and credit availability. During fiscal 2012, we discontinued our former promotional strategy and encountered difficulties in communicating our value proposition. We have shifted our strategy in fiscal 2013 and are re-introducing certain promotional activities. However, we have experienced, and anticipate that we will continue to experience for at least the foreseeable future, significant competition from promotional activities of our competitors. The performance of competitors as well as changes in their pricing and promotional policies, marketing activities, new store openings, launches of Internet websites, brand launches and other merchandise and operational strategies could cause us to have lower sales, lower gross margin and/or higher operating expenses such as marketing costs and other selling, general and administrative expenses, which in turn could have an adverse impact on our profitability.

Our sales and operating results depend on our ability to develop merchandise offerings that resonate with our existing customers and help to attract new customers.

Our sales and operating results depend in part on our ability to predict and respond to changes in fashion trends and customer preferences in a timely manner by consistently offering stylish, quality merchandise assortments at competitive prices. We continuously assess emerging styles and trends and focus on developing a merchandise assortment to meet customer preferences. Even with these efforts, we cannot be certain that we will be able to successfully meet constantly changing customer demands. To the extent our predictions regarding our merchandise differ from our customers' preferences, we may be faced with reduced sales and excess inventories for some products and/or missed opportunities for others. Any sustained failure to identify and respond to emerging trends in lifestyle and customer preferences and buying trends could have an adverse impact on our business. In addition, merchandise misjudgments may adversely impact the perception or reputation of our Company, which could result in declines in customer loyalty and vendor relationship issues, and ultimately have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our ability to increase sales and store productivity is largely dependent upon our ability to increase customer traffic and conversion.

Customer traffic depends upon our ability to successfully market compelling merchandise assortments as well as present an appealing shopping environment and experience to existing customers and new customers. In fiscal 2012, our store customer traffic significantly decreased compared to the prior year. We are making changes to our strategy to increase customer traffic and improve conversion in our stores and online. There can be no assurance that our efforts to increase customer traffic and conversion will be successful or will result in increased sales. We may need to respond to any declines in customer traffic or conversion rates by increasing markdowns or promotions to attract customers to our stores, which could adversely impact our gross margins, operating results and cash flows from operating activities.

If we are unable to manage our inventory effectively, our gross margins could be adversely affected.

Our profitability depends upon our ability to manage appropriate inventory levels and respond quickly to shifts in consumer demand patterns. We must properly execute our inventory management strategies by appropriately allocating merchandise among our stores, timely and efficiently distributing inventory to stores, maintaining an appropriate mix and level of inventory in stores, adjusting our merchandise mix between our private and exclusive brands and national brands, appropriately changing the allocation of floor space of stores among product categories to respond to customer demand and effectively managing pricing and markdowns. If we overestimate customer demand for our merchandise, we will likely need to record inventory markdowns and move the excess inventory to be sold at clearance prices which would negatively impact our gross margins and operating results. If we underestimate customer demand for our merchandise, we may experience inventory shortages which may result in missed sales opportunities and have a negative impact on customer loyalty.

Table of Contents

Disruptions in our Internet website, or our inability to successfully execute our online strategy, could have an adverse impact on our sales and results of operations.

We sell merchandise over the Internet through our website, www.jcp.com. As a result of a significant decline in sales volume through our website in fiscal 2012, we reorganized our Internet operations in fiscal 2013. However, it may take longer than expected or planned to recover from our negative online sales trends. Our Internet operations are also subject to numerous risks, including rapid technological change and the implementation of new systems and platforms; liability for online content; violations of state or federal laws, including those relating to online privacy; credit card fraud; problems associated with the operation of our website and related support systems; computer viruses; telecommunications failures; electronic break-ins and similar disruptions; and the allocation of inventory between our website and department stores. The failure of our website to perform as expected could result in disruptions and costs to our operations and make it more difficult for customers to purchase merchandise online. In addition, our inability to successfully develop and maintain the necessary technological interfaces for our customers to purchase merchandise through our website, including user friendly software applications for smart phones and tablets, could result in the loss in Internet sales and have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

The failure to retain, attract and motivate our employees, including employees in key positions, could have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

Our results depend on the contributions of our employees, including our senior management team and other key employees. This depends to a great extent on our ability to retain, attract and motivate talented employees throughout the organization, many of whom, particularly in the stores, are in entry level or part-time positions with historically high rates of turnover. Our ability to meet our changing labor needs while controlling our costs is also subject to external factors such as unemployment levels, competing wages and potential union organizing efforts. Because of our lower than expected operating results during fiscal 2012, we have not generally paid bonuses, and salary increases and incentive compensation opportunities could be limited. Any prolonged inability to provide salary increases or incentive compensation opportunities or substantial changes to our business model could have an adverse impact on our ability to attract, retain and motivate our employees. If we are unable to retain, attract and motivate talented employees with the appropriate skill sets, we may not achieve our objectives and our results of operations could be adversely impacted. In addition, the loss of one or more of our key personnel or the inability to effectively identify a suitable successor to a key role in our senior management could have a material adverse effect on our business.

The reduction and restructuring of our workforce may adversely impact our operating performance and operating efficiency.

As part of our cost reduction initiatives in fiscal 2012, we significantly reduced our corporate and operations headcount, including management level employees, and distribution and field employees. These reductions, combined with our voluntary early retirement plan initiated in 2011 and voluntary departures of employees, have resulted in a substantial amount of turnover of officers and line managers with specific knowledge relating to us, our operations and our industry that could be difficult to replace. We now operate with significantly fewer individuals who have assumed additional duties and responsibilities, which could have an adverse impact on our operating performance and operating efficiency.

Actions taken under our cost reduction initiatives may not produce the savings expected.

In fiscal 2012, we implemented cost reduction initiatives, including significant workforce reductions, significant reductions in projected marketing spend and other cost and spend reductions. We have forecasted substantial cost savings from these initiatives based on a number of assumptions and expectations which, if achieved, would improve our profitability and cash flows from operating activities. There can be no assurance that actual results achieved will not vary materially from what we have assumed and forecasted, which could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations, liquidity and financial position.

Table of Contents

We must protect against security breaches or other disclosures of private data of our customers as well as of our employees and other third parties.

As part of our normal operations, we receive and maintain personal information about our customers, our employees and other third parties. The confidentiality of all of our internal private data must at all times be protected against security breaches or other disclosure. We have systems and processes in place that are designed to protect information and protect against security and data breaches as well as fraudulent transactions and other activities. Despite our safeguards and security processes and protections, we cannot be assured that all of our systems and processes are free from vulnerability to security breaches or inadvertent data disclosure by third parties or us. Any failure to protect the confidential data of our customers or of our employees or other third parties could materially damage our brand and reputation as well as result in significant damage claims, any of which could have a material adverse impact on our business and results of operations.

Our operations are dependent on information technology systems; disruptions in those systems or increased costs relating to their implementation could have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

Our operations are dependent upon the integrity, security and consistent operation of various systems and data centers, including the point-of-sale systems in the stores, our Internet website, data centers that process transactions, communication systems and various software applications used throughout our Company to track inventory flow, process transactions and generate performance and financial reports.

In May 2013, we implemented the initial phase of an integrated suite of products from a third party vendor to simplify our processes and reduce our use of customized existing legacy systems and expect to place additional systems into operation in the future. Implementing new systems carries substantial risk, including implementation delays, cost overruns, disruption of operations, potential loss of data or information, lower customer satisfaction resulting in lost customers or sales, inability to deliver merchandise to our stores or our customers, and the potential inability to meet reporting requirements. There can be no assurances that we will successfully launch the new systems as planned, that the new systems will perform as expected or that the new systems will be implemented without disruptions to our operations, any of which may cause critical information upon which we rely to be delayed, unreliable, corrupted, insufficient or inaccessible.

We also outsource various information technology functions to third party service providers and may outsource other functions in the future. We rely on those third party service providers to provide services on a timely and effective basis and their failure to perform as expected or as required by contract could result in disruptions and costs to our operations.

We are also implementing mobile point-of-service and enhanced standard point-of-service technologies to enable our employees to provide high quality service to our customers and to provide our customers a better experience. We may not be able to effectively implement these technologies or be successful in marketing them to our customers. Our new or upgraded technology might not provide the anticipated benefits, it might take longer than expected to realize the anticipated benefits, may cost more than the expected costs to implement or the technology might fail altogether.

Changes in our credit ratings may limit our access to capital markets and adversely affect our liquidity.

The credit rating agencies periodically review our capital structure and the quality and stability of our earnings, as a result of which we have experienced multiple corporate credit ratings downgrades. These downgrades, and any future downgrades, to our long-term credit ratings could result in reduced access to the credit and capital markets and higher interest costs on future financings. The future availability of financing will depend on a variety of factors, such as economic and market conditions, the availability of credit and our credit ratings, as well as the possibility that lenders could develop a negative perception of us. If required, we may not be able to obtain additional financing, on favorable terms or at all.

Table of Contents

Our profitability depends on our ability to source merchandise and deliver it to our customers in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Our merchandise is sourced from a wide variety of suppliers, and our business depends on being able to find qualified suppliers and access products in a timely and efficient manner. Inflationary pressures on commodity prices and other input costs could increase our cost of goods, and an inability to pass such cost increases on to our customers or a change in our merchandise mix as a result of such cost increases could have an adverse impact on our profitability. Additionally, the impact of current and future economic conditions on our suppliers cannot be predicted and may cause our suppliers to be unable to access financing or become insolvent and thus become unable to supply us with products.

Our arrangements with our suppliers and vendors may be impacted by our financial results or financial position.

Substantially all of our merchandise suppliers and vendors sell to us on open account purchase terms. There is a risk that our key suppliers and vendors could respond to any actual or apparent decrease in or any concern with our financial results or liquidity by requiring or conditioning their sale of merchandise to us on more stringent or more costly payment terms, such as by requiring standby letters of credit, earlier or advance payment of invoices, payment upon delivery or other assurances or credit support or by choosing not to sell merchandise to us on a timely basis or at all. Our arrangements with our suppliers and vendors may also be impacted by media reports regarding our financial position. Our need for additional liquidity could significantly increase and our supply of merchandise could be materially disrupted if a significant portion of our key suppliers and vendors took one or more of the actions described above, which could have a material adverse effect on our sales, customer satisfaction, cash flows, liquidity and financial position.

Our senior secured term loan credit facility is secured by certain of our real property and substantially all of our personal property, and such property may be subject to foreclosure or other remedies in the event of our default. In addition, the term loan credit facility contains provisions that could restrict our operations and our ability to obtain additional financing.

In May 2013, we entered into a \$2.25 billion senior secured term loan credit facility that is secured by mortgages on certain real property of the Company, in addition to liens on substantially all personal property of the Company, subject to certain exclusions set forth in the credit and security agreement governing the term loan credit facility and related security documents. The real property subject to mortgages under the term loan credit facility includes our headquarters, distribution centers and certain of our stores.

The credit and guaranty agreement governing the term loan credit facility contains operating restrictions which may impact our future alternatives by limiting, without lender consent, our ability to borrow additional funds, execute certain equity financings or enter into dispositions or other liquidity enhancing or strategic transactions regarding certain of our assets, including our real property. Our ability to obtain additional or other financing or to dispose of certain assets could also be negatively impacted because a substantial portion of our owned assets have been pledged as collateral for repayment of our indebtedness under the term loan credit facility.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, our outstanding obligations under the term loan credit facility could be declared immediately due and payable or the lenders could foreclose on or exercise other remedies with respect to the assets securing the term loan credit facility, including our headquarters, distribution centers and certain of our stores. If an event of default occurs, there is no assurance that we would have the cash resources available to repay such accelerated obligations or refinance such indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms, or at all. The occurrence of any one of these events could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Table of Contents

Our revolving credit facility limits our borrowing capacity to the value of certain of our assets. In addition, our revolving credit facility is secured by certain of our personal property, and lenders may exercise remedies against the collateral in the event of our default.

In February 2013, we amended and restated our existing revolving credit facility to increase the aggregate lending commitments to \$1.85 billion. Our borrowing capacity under our revolving credit facility varies according to the Company's inventory levels, accounts receivable and credit card receivables, net of certain reserves. In the event of any material decrease in the amount of or appraised value of these assets, our borrowing capacity would similarly decrease, which could adversely impact our business and liquidity. In April 2013, we borrowed \$850 million under the revolving credit facility.

Our revolving credit facility contains customary affirmative and negative covenants and certain restrictions on operations become applicable if our availability falls below certain thresholds. These covenants could impose significant operating and financial limitations and restrictions on us, including restrictions on our ability to enter into particular transactions and to engage in other actions that we may believe are advisable or necessary for our business. In addition, the revolving credit facility provides for a springing fixed charge coverage ratio if our availability falls below a specified threshold.

Our obligations under the revolving credit facility are secured by liens with respect to inventory, accounts receivable, deposit accounts and certain related collateral. In the event of a default that is not cured or waived within any applicable cure periods, the lenders' commitment to extend further credit under our revolving credit facility could be terminated, our outstanding obligations could become immediately due and payable, outstanding letters of credit may be required to be cash collateralized and remedies may be exercised against the collateral, which generally consists of the Company's inventory, accounts receivable and deposit accounts and cash credited thereto. If we are unable to borrow under our revolving credit facility, we may not have the necessary cash resources for our operations and, if any event of default occurs, there is no assurance that we would have the cash resources available to repay such accelerated obligations, refinance such indebtedness on commercially reasonable terms, or at all, or cash collateralize our letters of credit, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

Our level of indebtedness may adversely affect our business and results of operations and may require the use of our available cash resources to meet repayment obligations, which could reduce the cash available for other purposes.

As of September 6, 2013, we had approximately \$5.821 billion in total indebtedness and are highly leveraged. Our level of indebtedness may limit our ability to obtain additional financing, if needed, to fund additional projects, working capital requirements, capital expenditures, debt service, and other general corporate or other obligations, as well as increase the risks to our business associated with general adverse economic and industry conditions. Our level of indebtedness may also place us at a competitive disadvantage to our competitors that are not as highly leveraged.

We are required to make quarterly repayments in a principal amount equal to \$5.625 million during the five-year term of the term loan credit facility, beginning September 30, 2013, subject to certain reductions for mandatory and optional prepayments. In addition, we are required to make prepayments of the term loan credit facility with the proceeds of certain asset sales, insurance proceeds and excess cash flow, which will reduce the cash available for other purposes and could impact our ability to reinvest in other areas of our business.

We cannot assure that our internal and external sources of liquidity will at all times be sufficient for our cash requirements.

We must have sufficient sources of liquidity to fund our working capital requirements, capital improvement plans, service our outstanding indebtedness and finance investment opportunities. The principal sources of our liquidity are funds generated from operating activities, available cash and cash equivalents, borrowings under our

Table of Contents

credit facilities, other debt financings and sales of non-operating assets. Our recent operating losses have limited our capital resources. Our ability to achieve our business and cash flow plans is based on a number of assumptions which involve significant judgments and estimates of future performance, borrowing capacity and credit availability, which cannot at all times be assured. Accordingly, we cannot assure that cash flows from operations and other internal and external sources of liquidity will at all times be sufficient for our cash requirements. If necessary, we may need to consider actions and steps to improve our cash position and mitigate any potential liquidity shortfall, such as modifying our business plan, pursuing additional financing to the extent available, reducing capital expenditures, pursuing and evaluating other alternatives and opportunities to obtain additional sources of liquidity and other potential actions to reduce costs. We cannot assure that any of these actions would be successful, sufficient or available or available on favorable terms. Any inability to generate or obtain sufficient levels of liquidity to meet our cash requirements at the level and times needed could have a material adverse impact on our business and financial position.

Our ability to obtain any additional financing or any refinancing of our debt, if needed at any time, depends upon many factors, including our existing level of indebtedness and restrictions in our debt facilities, historical business performance, financial projections, prospects and creditworthiness and external economic conditions and general liquidity in the credit and capital markets. Any additional debt, equity or equity-linked financing may require modification of our existing debt agreements, which we cannot assure would be obtainable. Any additional financing or refinancing could also be extended only at higher costs and require us to satisfy more restrictive covenants, which could further limit or restrict our business and results of operations, or be dilutive to our stockholders.

Operating results and cash flows at the store level may cause us to incur asset impairment charges.

Long-lived assets, primarily property and equipment, are reviewed at the store level at least annually for impairment, or whenever changes in circumstances indicate that a full recovery of net asset values through future cash flows is in question. Our impairment review requires us to make estimates and projections regarding, but not limited to, sales, operating profit and future cash flows. If these estimates or projections change or prove incorrect, we may be required to record asset impairment charges on certain store locations and other property and equipment. In fiscal 2012, our sales and operating profit declined significantly. If our operating performance begins to reflect a sustained decline and actual results are not consistent with our estimates and projections, we may be exposed to significant asset impairment charges in the future, which could be material to our results of operations.

We are subject to risks associated with importing merchandise from foreign countries.

A substantial portion of our merchandise is sourced by our vendors and by us outside of the United States. All of our suppliers must comply with our supplier legal compliance program and applicable laws, including consumer and product safety laws. Although we diversify our sourcing and production by country and supplier, the failure of a supplier to produce and deliver our goods on time, to meet our quality standards and adhere to our product safety requirements or to meet the requirements of our supplier compliance program or applicable laws, or our inability to flow merchandise to our stores or through the Internet channel in the right quantities at the right time could adversely affect our profitability and could result in damage to our reputation.

Although we have implemented policies and procedures designed to facilitate compliance with laws and regulations relating to doing business in foreign markets and importing merchandise from abroad, there can be no assurance that suppliers and other third parties with whom we do business will not violate such laws and regulations or our policies, which could subject us to liability and could adversely affect our results of operations.

We are subject to the various risks of importing merchandise from abroad and purchasing product made in foreign countries, such as

potential disruptions in manufacturing, logistics and supply;

Table of Contents

changes in duties, tariffs, quotas and voluntary export restrictions on imported merchandise;

strikes and other events affecting delivery;

consumer perceptions of the safety of imported merchandise;

product compliance with laws and regulations of the destination country;

product liability claims from customers or penalties from government agencies relating to products that are recalled, defective or otherwise noncompliant or alleged to be harmful;

concerns about human rights, working conditions and other labor rights and conditions and environmental impact in foreign countries where merchandise is produced and raw materials or components are sourced, and changing labor, environmental and other laws in these countries;

local business practice and political issues that may result in adverse publicity or threatened or actual adverse consumer actions, including boycotts;

compliance with laws and regulations concerning ethical business practices, such as the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; and

economic, political or other problems in countries from or through which merchandise is imported.

Political or financial instability, trade restrictions, tariffs, currency exchange rates, labor conditions, transport capacity and costs, systems issues, problems in third party distribution and warehousing and other interruptions of the supply chain, compliance with U.S. and foreign laws and regulations and other factors relating to international trade and imported merchandise beyond our control could affect the availability and the price of our inventory. A significant amount of merchandise we offer for sale is made in China and accordingly, a revaluation of the Chinese currency, or a lessening of Chinese governmental control of the exchange rate for that currency, in each case leading to an increase in its value relative to the U.S. dollar, could potentially result in a significant increase in the cost of inventory. These risks and other factors relating to foreign trade could subject us to liability or hinder our ability to access suitable merchandise on acceptable terms, which could adversely impact our results of operations.

Our Company's growth and profitability depend on the levels of consumer confidence and spending.

Our results of operations are sensitive to changes in overall economic and political conditions that impact consumer spending, including discretionary spending. Many economic factors outside of our control, including the housing market, interest rates, recession, inflation and deflation, energy costs and availability, consumer credit availability and terms, consumer debt levels, tax rates and policy, and unemployment trends influence consumer confidence and spending. The domestic and international political situation and actions also affect consumer confidence and spending. Additional events that could impact our performance include pandemics, terrorist threats and activities, worldwide military and domestic disturbances and conflicts, political instability and civil unrest. Declines in the level of consumer spending could adversely affect our growth and profitability.

Our business is seasonal, which impacts our results of operations.

Our annual earnings and cash flows depend to a great extent on the results of operations for the last quarter of our fiscal year, which includes the holiday season. Our fiscal fourth-quarter results may fluctuate significantly, based on many factors, including holiday spending patterns and weather conditions. This seasonality causes our operating results to vary considerably from quarter to quarter.

Our profitability may be impacted by weather conditions.

Our merchandise assortments reflect assumptions regarding expected weather patterns and our profitability depends on our ability to timely deliver seasonally appropriate inventory. Unseasonable or unexpected weather conditions such as warm temperatures during the winter season or prolonged or extreme periods of warm or cold temperatures could render a portion of our inventory incompatible with consumer needs. Extreme weather or

S-10

Table of Contents

natural disasters could also severely hinder our ability to timely deliver seasonally appropriate merchandise, delay capital improvements or cause us to close stores. A reduction in the demand for or supply of our seasonal merchandise could have an adverse effect on our inventory levels, gross margins and results of operations.

Changes in federal, state or local laws and regulations could increase our expenses and adversely affect our results of operations.

Our business is subject to a wide array of laws and regulations. The current political environment, financial reform legislation, the current high level of government intervention and activism, regulatory reform and stockholder activism may result in substantial new regulations and disclosure obligations, which may lead to additional compliance costs as well as the diversion of our management's time and attention from strategic initiatives. If we fail to comply with applicable laws and regulations we could be subject to legal risk, including government enforcement action and class action civil litigation that could increase our cost of doing business. Changes in the regulatory environment regarding topics such as privacy and information security, product safety or environmental protection, including regulations in response to concerns regarding climate change, collective bargaining agreements and health care mandates, among others, could also cause our compliance costs to increase and adversely affect our results of operations.

Legal and regulatory proceedings could have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

Our Company is subject to various legal and regulatory proceedings relating to our business, certain of which may involve jurisdictions with reputations for aggressive application of laws and procedures against corporate defendants. We are impacted by trends in litigation, including class action litigation brought under various consumer protection, employment, and privacy and information security laws. In addition, litigation risks related to claims that technologies we use infringe intellectual property rights of third parties have been amplified by the increase in third parties whose primary business is to assert such claims. Reserves are established based on our best estimates of our potential liability. However, we cannot accurately predict the ultimate outcome of any such proceedings due to the inherent uncertainties of litigation. Regardless of the outcome or whether the claims are meritorious, legal and regulatory proceedings may require that we devote substantial time and expense to defend our Company. Unfavorable rulings could result in a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition or results of operations.

Significant changes in discount rates, actual investment return on pension assets, and other factors could affect our earnings, equity, and pension contributions in future periods.

Our earnings may be positively or negatively impacted by the amount of income or expense recorded for our qualified pension plan. Generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) require that income or expense for the plan be calculated at the annual measurement date using actuarial assumptions and calculations. The most significant assumptions relate to the capital markets, interest rates and other economic conditions. Changes in key economic indicators can change the assumptions. Two critical assumptions used to estimate pension income or expense for the year are the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets and the discount rate. In addition, at the measurement date, we must also reflect the funded status of the plan (assets and liabilities) on the balance sheet, which may result in a significant change to equity through a reduction or increase to other comprehensive income. Although GAAP expense and pension contributions are not directly related, the key economic factors that affect GAAP expense would also likely affect the amount of cash we could be required to contribute to the pension plan. Potential pension contributions include both mandatory amounts required under federal law and discretionary contributions to improve a plan's funded status.

Provisions in our charter and bylaws, Delaware law, and our stockholder rights plan could delay and discourage takeover attempts that stockholders may consider favorable.

Certain provisions of our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, and Bylaws, as amended, and applicable provisions of Delaware corporate law, could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire control

Table of Contents

of us or have the effect of discouraging a third party from attempting to acquire control of us. Our Restated Certificate of Incorporation authorizes our Board of Directors (the Board) to issue preferred stock, which could be issued as a defensive measure in response to a takeover proposal. In addition, our Bylaws provide that special meetings of our stockholders may only be called by the Board. We are also subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, which prohibits a person who owns in excess of 15% of our outstanding voting stock from merging or combining with us for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person acquired in excess of 15% of our outstanding voting stock, unless the merger or combination is approved in a prescribed manner. In addition, the fact that our ability to utilize our tax net operating losses could be adversely affected by a change in control could have an anti-takeover effect.

We adopted a stockholder rights plan in August 2013 that could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire, or could discourage a third party from acquiring, our Company or a large block of our common stock. A third party that acquires 10% or more of our common stock could suffer substantial dilution of its ownership interest under the terms of the stockholder rights plan through the issuance of common stock or common stock equivalents to all stockholders other than the acquiring person.

The foregoing provisions may adversely affect the marketability of the common stock by discouraging potential investors from acquiring our stock. In addition, these provisions could delay or frustrate the removal of incumbent directors and could make more difficult a merger, tender offer or proxy contest involving us, or impede an attempt to acquire a significant or controlling interest in us, even if such events might be beneficial to us and our stockholders.

Our stock price has been and may continue to be volatile.

The market price of our common stock has fluctuated substantially and may continue to fluctuate significantly. Future announcements or disclosures concerning us or any of our competitors, our strategic initiatives, our sales and profitability, any quarterly variations in actual or anticipated operating results or comparable sales, any failure to meet analysts' expectations and sales of large blocks of our common stock, among other factors, could cause the market price of our common stock to fluctuate substantially. In addition, the stock market has experienced price and volume fluctuations that have affected the market price of many retail and other stocks and that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of these companies. Securities class action litigation has often been instituted against companies following periods of volatility in the overall market and in the market price of a company's securities. Such litigation, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs, divert our management's attention and resources and have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. This volatility could affect the price at which you could sell shares of our common stock.

Our ability to use net operating loss carryforwards to offset future taxable income for U.S. federal income tax purposes may be limited.

In fiscal 2012, we incurred a federal net operating loss (NOL) of approximately \$1.5 billion of which approximately \$284 million is available for carryback. The remaining NOL carryforward (expiring between 2013 and 2032) is available to offset future taxable income. We could experience additions to our NOL carryforward in future years. Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code) imposes an annual limitation on the amount of taxable income that may be offset by our NOL carryforward if we experience an ownership change as defined in Section 382 of the Code. An ownership change occurs when our five-percent shareholders (as defined in Section 382 of the Code) collectively increase their ownership in us by more than 50 percentage points (by value) over a rolling three-year period. This is different from a change in beneficial ownership under applicable securities laws. If an ownership change occurs our ability to use our NOL carryforward to offset future taxable income will be subject to an annual limitation and will depend, among other things, on our equity market capitalization and net built-in gains at the time of the ownership change, as well as on the amount of taxable income generated by us in future periods. There is no assurance that we will be able to fully utilize our NOL carryforward and we could be required to record a valuation allowance related to the

Table of Contents

amount of the NOL carryforward that may not be realized, which could impact our net results of operations. While we believe that we have not undergone an ownership change as of the date hereof, because such an event is outside of our control, no assurance can be given that an ownership change has not already occurred or that this offering will not result in an ownership change. If an ownership change occurs, the annual utilization of our NOL carryforward may be materially and adversely affected.

Risks Related to Ownership of our Common Stock

The market price and trading volume of our shares of common stock may be volatile, which may make it difficult for you to resell your shares of common stock when you want or at prices you find attractive.

The market price of our shares of common stock has fluctuated substantially and may continue to fluctuate in response to the following factors, some of which are beyond our control:

fluctuations in our operating results, including results that vary from expectations of management, analysts and investors;

changes in investors' and analysts' perception of the business risks and conditions of our business;

broader market fluctuations;

general financial, economic and political conditions;

regulatory changes affecting our industry generally or our business and operations;

announcements of strategic developments, acquisitions, financings and other material events by us or our competitors;

the sale of a substantial number of shares of our common stock held by existing security holders in the public market; and

general conditions in the retail industry.

The stock markets in general have experienced extreme volatility that has at times been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock, make it difficult to predict the market price of our common stock in the future and cause the value of your investment to decline.

Securities class action litigation has often been instituted against companies following periods of volatility in the overall market and in the market price of a company's securities. Such litigation, if instituted against us, could result in substantial costs, divert our management's attention and resources and have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. This volatility could affect the price at which you could sell shares of our common stock.

There may be future sales or other dilution of our equity, which may adversely affect the market price of our shares of common stock.

We are not restricted from and stockholder approval is not required to issue additional shares of common stock, including securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for, or that represent the right to receive, shares of common stock, except for certain restrictions in the agreements governing our senior secured credit facilities and any stockholder approval required by the NYSE. Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock or other equity-related securities in the public market could depress the market price of our shares of common stock. We cannot predict the effect that future sales of our common stock or other equity-related securities would have on the market price of our

shares of common stock.

You may not receive dividends on the shares of common stock.

Holders of our common stock are only entitled to receive such dividends as our Board may declare out of funds legally available for such payments. We are a holding company conducting all of our operations through

S-13

Table of Contents

our wholly owned subsidiary, J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc., and its subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to make dividend payments on the shares of common stock depends primarily on the receipt of dividends and other distributions from our direct and indirect subsidiaries. On May 15, 2012, we discontinued our quarterly \$0.20 per share dividend, and we have not declared any dividends from then through the date of this prospectus supplement. We do not anticipate paying cash dividends on the shares of our common stock in the foreseeable future.

Our shares of common stock are an equity security and are subordinate to our existing and future indebtedness and effectively subordinated to all the indebtedness claims against our subsidiaries.

Shares of our common stock are equity interests and do not constitute indebtedness. As such, shares of our common stock will rank junior to all of our indebtedness and to other non-equity claims against us and our assets available to satisfy claims against us, including claims in a bankruptcy, liquidation or similar proceeding. Our existing indebtedness restricts, and future indebtedness may restrict, payment of dividends on our common stock.

In addition, our right to participate in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation, reorganization or otherwise, and thus your ability as a holder of shares of common stock to benefit indirectly from such distribution, will be subject to the prior claims of creditors of that subsidiary, except to the extent that any of our claims as a creditor of such subsidiary may be recognized. As a result, the common stock effectively is subordinated to all existing and future liabilities and obligations of our subsidiaries. As of September 6, 2013, we had approximately \$5.821 billion in total indebtedness.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Our net proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock in this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses payable by us, will be approximately \$785.8 million (or approximately \$903.8 million if the underwriter exercises its option in full). We intend to use all of the net proceeds of this offering for general corporate purposes.

S-15

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table sets forth our cash and cash equivalents and our capitalization as of August 3, 2013 on an actual basis and as adjusted to reflect the receipt of the estimated net proceeds from the sale of shares of our common stock (after deducting the underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated fees and expenses). You should read this table in conjunction with the Use of Proceeds section above and the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	As of August 3, 2013	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(unaudited)	
	(dollars in millions)	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,535	\$ 2,321
Debt included in current liabilities:		
Short term borrowings	\$ 850	\$ 850
Current portion of capital leases and note payable	27	27
Current maturities of long-term debt	23	23
Debt included in long-term liabilities:		
Long-term capital leases and note payable	71	71
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities	4,850	4,850
Total debt	\$ 5,821	\$ 5,821
Total stockholders' equity	2,320	3,106
Total debt and stockholders' equity	\$ 8,141	\$ 8,927

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON STOCK**

Our shares of common stock are listed on the NYSE under the symbol JCP. The following table sets forth the high and low sales prices for transactions involving shares of our common stock during each fiscal quarter indicated, as reported on the NYSE.

	Common Stock Price	
	High	Low
Fiscal Year Ended January 28, 2012		
First Quarter	\$ 39.24	\$ 30.71
Second Quarter	41.00	29.82
Third Quarter	34.50	23.44
Fourth Quarter	41.86	29.55
Fiscal Year Ended February 2, 2013		
First Quarter	\$ 43.18	\$ 32.51
Second Quarter	36.75	19.06
Third Quarter	32.55	20.40
Fourth Quarter	25.61	15.69
Fiscal Year Ending February 1, 2014		
First Quarter	\$ 23.10	\$ 13.55
Second Quarter	19.63	15.04
Third Quarter (through September 26, 2013)	14.65	9.52

On September 26, 2013, the last reported sale price of shares of our common stock on the NYSE was \$10.42 per share. As of August 20, 2013, shares of our common stock were held of record by approximately 28,212 holders.

DIVIDEND POLICY

In fiscal year 2011, we declared a dividend of \$0.20 per share in each quarter, and in fiscal year 2012 we declared a dividend of \$0.20 per share in the first quarter. On May 15, 2012, we announced that we would be discontinuing our quarterly \$0.20 per share dividend. Since such date, we have not declared dividends in any quarter.

We do not anticipate paying cash dividends on the shares of our common stock in the foreseeable future. Any payment of cash dividends will depend on our financial condition, results of operations, capital requirements, earnings and other factors deemed relevant by our Board.

Table of Contents

U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-U.S. HOLDERS

The following discussion is a summary of U.S. federal income and estate tax considerations generally applicable to the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock by a Non-U.S. Holder (as defined below) that acquires our common stock in this offering and holds our common stock as a capital asset (generally, property held for investment). This summary does not cover all aspects of U.S. federal income and estate taxation that may be relevant to a Non-U.S. Holder in light of the Non-U.S. Holder's particular circumstances. In addition, this summary does not describe the impact of the unearned income Medicare contribution tax or the U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences applicable to a Non-U.S. Holder that is subject to special treatment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") including, without limitation, certain former citizens and former long-term residents of the United States, a controlled foreign corporation, a passive foreign investment company, a partnership or other pass through entity or an investor in any such entity, a tax-exempt organization, a bank or other financial institution, or a broker, dealer or trader in securities.

As used in this discussion, the term "Non-U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of our common stock that, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is not a partnership (or any other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for such purposes) and is not any of the following:

an individual that is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or any other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate, the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust (1) whose administration is subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and that has one or more United States persons who have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (2) that has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury regulations to be treated as a United States person.

This summary is based upon the provisions of the Code, the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, judicial opinions, rulings and pronouncements of the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") and other applicable authorities, all as in effect or in existence on the date hereof. These authorities may change or be subject to differing interpretations, perhaps retroactively, which could result in U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences different from those summarized below. This discussion does not address any other U.S. federal tax considerations (such as gift tax) or any state, local or non-U.S. tax considerations. Each prospective purchaser of our common stock should consult its own tax advisor about the U.S. federal, state, local and non-U.S. tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, and disposition of our common stock in light of its own particular circumstances.

If a partnership (or any other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holds our common stock, the U.S. federal income tax treatment of a partner of that partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner, the activities of the partnership and certain determinations made at the partner level. A partner in such a partnership that holds our common stock should consult its own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock.

Distributions on Common Stock

In the event that we make a distribution of cash or other property (other than certain distributions of our stock) in respect of our common stock, the distribution generally will be treated as a dividend to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Any portion of a distribution that exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits will generally be treated first as a tax-free return of capital, on a share-by-share basis, to the extent of the Non-U.S. Holder's tax basis in our common stock, and, to the extent such portion exceeds the Non-U.S. Holder's tax basis in our common stock, the excess will be treated as gain from the disposition of the common stock, the tax treatment of which is discussed below under "Sales, Exchanges or Other Taxable Dispositions of Common Stock."

Table of Contents

The gross amount of dividends paid to a Non-U.S. Holder generally will be subject to withholding of U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty. However, dividends that are effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business by the Non-U.S. Holder within the United States (and, where required by an applicable income tax treaty, are attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States) are not subject to this withholding tax, provided certain certification and disclosure requirements are satisfied. Instead, such dividends are subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis at regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates in the same manner as if the Non-U.S. Holder were a United States person as defined under the Code. Any such effectively connected dividends received by a non-U.S. corporation may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

A Non-U.S. Holder that wishes to claim the benefit of an applicable income tax treaty for dividends will be required to provide the applicable withholding agent with a valid IRS Form W-8BEN (or other applicable form) and certify under penalties of perjury that such holder is not a United States person as defined under the Code and is eligible for treaty benefits. This certification must be provided to the applicable withholding agent prior to the payment of dividends and may be required to be updated periodically. If our common stock is held through a non-U.S. partnership or non-U.S. intermediary, the non-U.S. partnership or non-U.S. intermediary will also be required to comply with additional certification requirements under applicable Treasury regulations.

If we are or were to become a United States real property holding corporation (as discussed below), it is possible that the withholding may be imposed at 10% on distributions (including distributions representing a tax-free return of capital) even if the applicable income tax treaty provides a lower rate for dividends.

A Non-U.S. Holder eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. withholding tax pursuant to an income tax treaty may obtain a refund of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for refund with the IRS.

Sales, Exchanges or Other Taxable Dispositions of Common Stock

A Non-U.S. Holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on any gain realized upon the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition of our common stock unless:

the gain is effectively connected with such Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States and, where required by an applicable income tax treaty, the gain is attributable to such Non-U.S. Holder's permanent establishment or fixed base in the United States; or

such Non-U.S. Holder is an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more in the calendar year of the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition and certain other conditions are satisfied; or

we are or have been a United States real property holding corporation, as such term is defined in section 897(c) of the Code, at any time during the shorter of (1) the five-year period ending on the date of disposition or (2) the Non-U.S. Holder's holding period for our common stock. As long as our common stock is regularly traded on an established securities market, within the meaning of section 897(c)(3) of the Code, these rules will apply only to a Non-U.S. Holder who actually or constructively holds more than 5% of our common stock at any time during the shorter of the two periods mentioned above. We have not made a determination of whether we are currently a United States real property holding corporation, and no assurance can be given that we are not, or that we will not become, a United States real property holding corporation.

Gain that is effectively connected with such Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States and, where required by an applicable income tax treaty, attributable to such Non-U.S. Holder's permanent establishment or fixed base in the United States (or, if we are or become a United States real property holding corporation, gain that is realized by a Non-U.S. Holder who actually or constructively holds more than 5% of our common stock), will be subject to tax on a net income basis at regular graduated U.S. federal income tax rates in the same manner as if such Non-U.S. Holder were a United States person as defined under the Code. A Non-U.S. Holder that is a corporation may also be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30%, or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty, of its effectively connected earnings and profits for the taxable year, as adjusted for certain items. An individual Non-U.S. Holder present in the United States for 183 days or more in the calendar year of the sale, exchange or other taxable disposition (and where certain other

Table of Contents

conditions are satisfied) will be required to pay (subject to applicable income tax treaties) a flat 30% tax on the gain derived from the sale, which may be offset by certain United States source capital losses, even though the individual is not considered a resident of the United States.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding

We must report annually to the IRS and to each Non-U.S. Holder the amount of dividends paid to such Non-U.S. Holder and the tax withheld with respect to such dividends, regardless of whether withholding was required. Copies of the information returns reporting such dividends and withholding may also be made available to the tax authorities in the country in which the Non-U.S. Holder resides under the provisions of an applicable income tax treaty or tax information exchange agreement.

Payments of dividends in respect of, or proceeds on the disposition of, our common stock made to a Non-U.S. Holder may be subject to additional information reporting and backup withholding unless such Non-U.S. Holder establishes an exemption, for example by properly certifying that such Non-U.S. Holder is not a United States person as defined under the Code on a valid IRS Form W-8BEN or another appropriate version of Form W-8 (provided that the payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that such Non-U.S. Holder is a United States person).

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from payments made to a Non-U.S. Holder will reduce the Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. federal income tax liability. If withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a refund or credit may generally be obtained from the IRS, provided the required information is timely furnished to the IRS. A Non-U.S. Holder should consult its tax advisor regarding the application of the information reporting and backup withholding rules.

U.S. Federal Estate Tax

Shares of our common stock beneficially owned by an individual who is not a citizen of the United States or a resident of the United States (as defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) at the time of death will generally be includable in the decedent's gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise, and therefore may be subject to U.S. federal estate tax.

Recently Enacted Legislation

After June 30, 2014, withholding at a rate of 30% will be required on dividends in respect of (and, after December 31, 2016, withholding at a rate of 30% will be required on gross proceeds from the sale of) shares of our common stock held by or through certain non-U.S. financial institutions (including investment funds), unless such institution satisfies certain reporting requirements with respect to shares in, and accounts maintained by, the institution to the extent such shares or accounts are held by certain United States persons or by certain non-U.S. entities that are wholly or partially owned by United States persons, or otherwise qualifies for an exemption from these rules. Accordingly, the entity through which our common stock is held will affect the determination of whether such withholding is required. Similarly, after June 30, 2014, dividends in respect of (and, after December 31, 2016, gross proceeds from the sale of) shares of common stock held by a non-financial non-U.S. entity will be subject to withholding at a rate of 30%, unless such entity either (i) certifies to us that such entity does not have any substantial United States owners or (ii) provides certain information, or otherwise qualifies for an exemption from these rules. Non-U.S. Holders are encouraged to consult their tax advisors regarding the possible implications of these rules on their investment in our common stock.

Table of Contents**UNDERWRITING**

The Company and Goldman, Sachs & Co. (the underwriter) have entered into an underwriting agreement with respect to the shares being offered. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriter has agreed to purchase all of the shares offered hereby.

The underwriter has an option to buy up to an additional 12.6 million shares from the Company. The underwriter may exercise that option for 30 days.

The following table shows the per share and total underwriting discounts and commissions to be paid to the underwriter by the Company. Such amounts are shown assuming both no exercise and full exercise of the underwriter's option to purchase 12.6 million additional shares.

Paid by the Company

	No Exercise	Full Exercise
Per Share	\$ 0.2900	\$ 0.2900
Total	\$ 24,360,000	\$ 28,014,000

Shares sold by the underwriter to the public will initially be offered at the initial public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement. After the initial offering of the shares, the underwriter may change the offering price and the other selling terms. The offering of the shares by the underwriter is subject to receipt and acceptance and subject to the underwriter's right to reject any order in whole or in part.

The Company and its directors and certain of its executive officers have agreed with the underwriter, subject to certain exceptions, not to dispose of or hedge any of their common stock or securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock during the period from the date of this prospectus supplement continuing through the date 90 days after the date of this prospectus supplement, except with the prior written consent of the representative.

In connection with the offering, the underwriter may purchase and sell shares of common stock in the open market. These transactions may include short sales, stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover positions created by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriter of a greater number of shares than they are required to purchase in the offering, and a short position represents the amount of such sales that have not been covered by subsequent purchases. A covered short position is a short position that is not greater than the amount of additional shares for which the underwriter's option described above may be exercised. The underwriter may cover any covered short position by either exercising their option to purchase additional shares or purchasing shares in the open market. In determining the source of shares to cover the covered short position, the underwriter will consider, among other things, the price of shares available for purchase in the open market as compared to the price at which they may purchase additional shares pursuant to the option described above. Naked short sales are any short sales that create a short position greater than the amount of additional shares for which the option described above may be exercised. The underwriter must cover any such naked short position by purchasing shares in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriter is concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Stabilizing transactions consist of various bids for or purchases of common stock made by the underwriter in the open market prior to the completion of the offering.

Purchases to cover a short position and stabilizing transactions, as well as other purchases by the underwriter for its own accounts, may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the Company's stock and may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the common stock. As a result, the price of the common stock may be higher than the price that otherwise might exist in the open market. In addition, neither we nor the underwriter makes any representation that the underwriter will engage in

Table of Contents

these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued at any time without notice. These transactions may be effected on NYSE, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), the underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of shares to the public in that Relevant Member State prior to the publication of a prospectus in relation to the shares which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of shares to the public in that Relevant Member State at any time:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorised or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorised or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year; (2) a total balance sheet of more than 43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than 50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representative for any such offer; or
- (d) in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the Issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of shares to the public in relation to any shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the shares, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

United Kingdom

The underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the shares in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to the Issuer; and
- (b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the shares in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Hong Kong

The shares may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong), or (ii) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (iii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap.32, Laws of Hong Kong),

Table of Contents

and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the shares may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to shares which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder.

Singapore

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the shares may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the shares be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the shares are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary is an accredited investor, shares, debentures and units of shares and debentures of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest in that trust shall not be transferable for 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the shares under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA or to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions, specified in Section 275 of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is given for the transfer; or (3) by operation of law.

Japan

The securities have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law) and the underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any securities, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

The Company estimates that its share of the total expenses of the offering will be approximately \$425,000.

The Company has agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

The underwriter and its affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include sales and trading, commercial and investment banking, advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, market making, brokerage and other financial and non-financial activities and services. The underwriter and its affiliates have provided, and may in the future provide, a variety of these services to the Company and to persons and entities with relationships with the Company, for

Table of Contents

which they received or will receive customary fees and expenses. For example, an affiliate of Goldman, Sachs & Co. is the administrative agent, collateral agent and lead arranger under our existing senior secured term loan credit facility and a lender under our existing revolving credit facility.

In the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriter and its affiliates, officers, directors and employees may purchase, sell or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade securities, derivatives, loans, commodities, currencies, credit default swaps and other financial instruments for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and trading activities may involve or relate to assets, securities and/or instruments of the Company (directly, as collateral securing other obligations or otherwise) and/or persons and entities with relationships with the Company. The underwriter and its affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market color or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such assets, securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they should acquire, long and/or short positions in such assets, securities and instruments.

S-24

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. The SEC maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically at <http://www.sec.gov>. Our filings with the SEC are also available without charge from our website at www.jcp.com. You may read and copy any document that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at the following address:

100 F Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20549

You can call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available at the offices of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. For further information on obtaining copies of our public filings at the NYSE, you can call (212) 656-5060. Information about us is also available at our website at www.jcp.com. Our website and the information contained on it are not part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information that we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to information and documents that we have filed with the SEC. Any information that we refer to in this manner is considered part of this prospectus supplement. Any information that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus supplement will automatically update and supersede the corresponding information contained in this prospectus supplement.

We specifically are incorporating by reference the following documents (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2013, filed with the SEC on March 20, 2013;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended May 4, 2013, filed on June 11, 2013 and the quarter ended August 3, 2013, filed on September 10, 2013;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 4, 2013, February 12, 2013, March 20, 2013, April 4, 2013, April 8, 2013, April 15, 2013, April 29, 2013, April 30, 2013, May 14, 2013, May 20, 2013, May 24, 2013, July 26, 2013, August 1, 2013, August 8, 2013, August 9, 2013, August 13, 2013, August 16, 2013, August 22, 2013, August 30, 2013, September 13, 2013, September 26, 2013 and both of our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 18, 2013;

our Definitive Proxy Statement for the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, filed with the SEC on April 2, 2013, as supplemented on April 12, 2013; and

any future filings that we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, excluding any information furnished to, rather than filed with, the SEC, after the date of this prospectus supplement until the sale of the securities pursuant to this prospectus supplement is complete.

You may request a free copy of any documents referred to above, orally or in writing, including exhibits specifically incorporated by reference in those documents, by contacting us at the following address and telephone number:

J. C. Penney Company, Inc.

6501 Legacy Drive

Edgar Filing: J C PENNEY CO INC - Form 424B5

Plano, Texas 75024

Telephone: (972) 431-5500

Attention: Investor Relations

S-25

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the shares of common stock being offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, Los Angeles, California. Certain legal matters in connection with the offering of shares of our common stock will be passed upon for the Underwriter by Latham & Watkins LLP, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of jcpenny as of February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended February 2, 2013, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of February 2, 2013 have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, also incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

S-26

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

J. C. Penney Company, Inc.

COMMON STOCK

PREFERRED STOCK

DEPOSITARY SHARES

DEBT SECURITIES

GUARANTEES OF DEBT SECURITIES OF J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC.

WARRANTS

STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS

STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc.

DEBT SECURITIES

GUARANTEES OF DEBT SECURITIES OF J. C. PENNEY COMPANY, INC.

WARRANTS

J. C. Penney Company, Inc. (JCPenney) and/or J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of JCPenney (JCP), may offer from time to time to sell, in one or more series, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. JCPenney's common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE) under the symbol JCP. On August 23, 2013, the last reported sale price of the shares of our common stock on the NYSE was \$13.50.

Each time we offer securities using this prospectus, we will provide specific terms and offering prices in supplements to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change the information in this prospectus and will also describe the specific manner in which we will offer these securities. You should carefully read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, including the information incorporated by reference, prior to investing in our securities.

We may offer and sell the securities on a continuous or delayed basis directly to investors or through underwriters, dealers or agents, or through a combination of these methods. The names of any underwriters, dealers or agents will be included in a prospectus supplement. If any agents, dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth any applicable commissions or discounts.

Edgar Filing: J C PENNEY CO INC - Form 424B5

The principal executive offices of JCPenney and JCP are located at 6501 Legacy Drive, Plano, Texas 75024, and the telephone number for each is (972) 431-1000.

We discuss risk factors relating to our Company in filings we make with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including under Risk Factors in our most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K, in our most recent Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular offering of securities may discuss certain risks of investing in those securities. You should carefully consider these risk factors and risks before deciding to purchase any securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of this prospectus is August 26, 2013.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	2
<u>INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE</u>	2
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	3
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	13
<u>DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	15
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	15
<u>DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS</u>	18
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	18
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	18
<u>EXPERTS</u>	19

Table of Contents

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of an automatic shelf registration statement that JCPenney and JCP filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC). Under this shelf registration process, JCPenney and JCP may sell, from time to time, an indeterminate amount of any combination of its securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities JCPenney and JCP may offer, which is not meant to be a complete description of each security. Each time that securities are offered, a prospectus supplement containing specific information about the terms of that offering will be provided, including the specific amounts, prices and terms of the securities offered. The prospectus supplement and any other offering material may also add to, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We urge you to read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement and any other offering material (including any free writing prospectus) prepared by or on behalf of JCPenney and JCP for a specific offering of securities, together with additional information described under Where You Can Find More Information on page 2 of this prospectus. You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any such prospectus supplement or other offering material. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell or soliciting an offer to purchase these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

You should not assume that the information contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of the applicable document. Neither the delivery of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material (including any free writing prospectus) nor any distribution of securities pursuant to such documents shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the information set forth in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material or in our affairs since the date of this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement or other offering material.

We may include agreements as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. In reviewing such agreements, please remember they are included to provide you with information regarding their terms and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about us or the other parties to the agreements. The agreements may contain representations and warranties by each of the parties to the applicable agreement. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the applicable agreement and:

should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties if those statements prove to be inaccurate;

may have been qualified by disclosures that were made to the other party in connection with the negotiation of the applicable agreement, which disclosures would not necessarily be reflected in the agreement;

may apply standards of materiality in a way that is different from what may be viewed as material to you or other investors; and

were made only as of the date of the applicable agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in the agreement and are subject to more recent developments.

Accordingly, these representations and warranties may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time. Additional information about us may be found elsewhere in the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and our other public filings, which are available without charge on the Internet at the SEC's EDGAR website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Unless indicated otherwise, as used in this prospectus, the terms jcpenny, we, us, our, ourselves or the Company refer to J. C. Penney Company, Inc., and its consolidated subsidiaries, including J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our filings with the SEC are available without charge on the Internet at the SEC's EDGAR website at <http://www.sec.gov> or from our website at www.jcp.com. You may read and copy any document that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at the following address:

100 F Street, N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20549

You can call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information about the operation of the Public Reference Room. Our SEC filings are also available at the offices of the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. For further information on obtaining copies of our public filings at the NYSE, you can call (212) 656-5060. Information about us is also available at our website at www.jcp.com. Our website and the information contained on it are not part of this prospectus.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

This prospectus is part of a registration statement filed with the SEC by us. The full registration statement can be obtained from the SEC as indicated above, or from us.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information that we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to information and documents that we have filed with the SEC. Any information that we refer to in this manner is considered part of this prospectus. Any information that we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus will automatically update and supersede the corresponding information contained in this prospectus.

We specifically are incorporating by reference the following documents (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules):

JCPenney's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended February 2, 2013, filed with the SEC on March 20, 2013;

JCPenney's Definitive Proxy Statement for JCPenney's 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, filed with the SEC on April 2, 2013, as supplemented on April 12, 2013;

JCPenney's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 4, 2013, February 12, 2013, March 20, 2013, April 4, 2013, April 8, 2013 and April 15, 2013, April 29, 2013, April 30, 2013, May 14, 2013, May 20, 2013, May 24, 2013, July 26, 2013, August 1, 2013, August 8, 2013, August 9, 2013, August 13, 2013, August 16, 2013, August 22, 2013 and both of JCPenney's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on April 18, 2013; and

Any future filings that we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, excluding any information furnished to, rather than filed with, the SEC, after the date of this prospectus until we sell all of the securities being registered by the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

You may request a free copy of any documents referred to above, including exhibits specifically incorporated by reference in those documents, by contacting us at the following address and telephone number:

J. C. Penney Company, Inc.

6501 Legacy Drive

Plano, Texas 75024

Edgar Filing: J C PENNEY CO INC - Form 424B5

Telephone: (972) 431-5500

Attention: Investor Relations

Table of Contents

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and any prospectus supplement, and the documents incorporated herein by reference may contain forward-looking statements made within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by terminology such as may, should, will, expects, intends, plans, anticipates, believes, estimates, predicts, potential, or the no, or other comparable terminology. These statements relate to future events or our future financial performance, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Those risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the success of our transformation, the impact of changes designed to transform our business, competition and promotional activities, changes in merchandise styles and trends, changes in store traffic trends, maintaining an appropriate mix and level of inventory, the implementation of our new store layout, the availability of internal and external sources of liquidity, our failure to retain, attract and motivate our employees, the reduction and restructuring of our workforce, the impact of cost reduction initiatives, a systems failure and/or security breach that results in the theft, transfer or unauthorized disclosure of customer, employee or Company information, disruptions in our information technology systems or website, changes in our credit ratings, our failure to source and deliver merchandise in a timely and cost-effective manner, changes in our arrangements with our suppliers and vendors, restrictions under our revolving credit facility, potential asset impairment charges, risks associated with importing merchandise from foreign countries, economic and political conditions that impact consumer confidence and spending, the impact of holiday spending patterns and weather conditions, changes in federal, state or local laws and regulations, legal and regulatory proceedings, significant changes in discount rates, actual investment return on pension assets and other factors related to our qualified pension plan, the influence of our largest stockholders, the volatility of our stock price and our ability to use net operating loss carryforwards to offset future taxable income for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Additional information regarding these and other factors may be contained in our filings with the SEC, especially on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K. The list of factors identified above and in the aforementioned reports is not exhaustive and new factors may emerge or changes to these factors may occur that would impact our business. All such risk factors are difficult to predict and contain material uncertainties that may affect actual results and may be beyond our control.

We also used other factors and assumptions not identified above in deriving the forward-looking statements. Our failure to realize these other assumptions or the impact of the other factors may also cause actual results to differ materially from those projected.

All written or oral forward-looking statements attributable to us are expressly qualified in their entirety by the foregoing cautionary statement. You are cautioned not to rely on the forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus or, where applicable, a prospectus supplement or document incorporated by reference. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance or achievements. We are under no duty to update any of the forward-looking statements after the date of any prospectus supplement nor are we under any obligation to publicly announce the results of any revisions to any of the forward-looking statements to reflect actual results, future events or developments, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting the forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents**THE COMPANY**

J. C. Penney Company, Inc. is a holding company whose principal operating subsidiary is J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. (JCP). JCP was incorporated in Delaware in 1924, and J. C. Penney Company, Inc. was incorporated in Delaware in 2002, when the holding company structure was implemented. The new holding company assumed the name J. C. Penney Company, Inc. (JCPenney). The holding company has no independent assets or operations, and no direct subsidiaries other than JCP. Common stock of JCPenney is publicly traded under the symbol JCP on the New York Stock Exchange. JCPenney is a co-obligor (or guarantor, as appropriate) regarding the payment of principal and interest on JCP's outstanding debt securities. The guarantee by JCPenney of certain of JCP's outstanding debt securities is full and unconditional.

Since our founding by James Cash Penney in 1902, we have grown to be a major retailer, operating 1,104 department stores in 49 states and Puerto Rico as of February 2, 2013. Our business consists of selling merchandise and services to consumers through our department stores and through our Internet website at *jcp.com*. Department stores and Internet generally serve the same type of customers and provide virtually the same mix of merchandise, and department stores accept returns from sales made in stores and via the Internet. We sell family apparel and footwear, accessories, fine and fashion jewelry, beauty products through Sephora inside jcpenney and home furnishings. In addition, our department stores provide our customers with services such as styling salon, optical, portrait photography and custom decorating.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated. No shares of our preferred stock were outstanding during the periods indicated in the table below. Therefore, the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred dividends are not separately stated from the ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the periods indicated in the table below.

	53 Weeks Ended 2/2/13(1)	52 Weeks Ended 1/28/12(1)	52 Weeks Ended 1/29/11	52 Weeks Ended 1/30/10	52 Weeks Ended 1/31/09
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	(3.6)	0.3	2.6	2.1	3.5

- (1) Total available income/loss from continuing operations (before income taxes and capitalized interest, but after preferred stock dividend) was not sufficient to cover combined fixed charges and preferred stock for the 53 weeks ended 2/2/13 and the 52 weeks ended 1/28/12 by \$1,536 million and \$229 million, respectively.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

This prospectus contains summary descriptions of the JCPenney common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, debt securities, guarantees of JCP debt securities, warrants, stock purchase contracts and stock purchase units that JCPenney may offer and sell from time to time and of the JCP debt securities and warrants that JCP may offer and sell from time to time. These summary descriptions are not meant to be complete descriptions of each security. At the time of an offering and sale, this prospectus together with the accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the material terms of the securities being offered.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

In this section entitled Description of Capital Stock, when we refer to the Company, JCPenney, we, our, or us, we are referring to J. C. Penney Company, Inc. and none of its subsidiaries. JCPenney's authorized capital stock consisted of 1,250,000,000 shares of common stock of 50¢ par value, of which 220,455,870 shares were issued and outstanding as of August 20, 2013, and 25,000,000 shares of preferred stock, without par value, of which no shares were issued and outstanding as of August 20, 2013. The authorized shares of any class of stock may be increased or decreased, as the case may be, by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of the stock entitled to vote. The descriptions set forth below of the common stock and preferred stock (as hereinafter described) constitute brief summaries of certain provisions of JCPenney's Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, referred to in this section as its Charter, and its Bylaws, as amended, referred to in this section as its Bylaws, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the relevant provisions of such documents. See Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference for information on how to obtain copies of these documents.

Common Stock

Holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share with respect to each matter submitted to a vote of the stockholders of JCPenney, including the election of directors, subject to voting rights that may be established for shares of preferred stock. Our Charter does not provide for cumulative voting nor are holders of common stock entitled to any preemptive rights to purchase or subscribe for any of our securities. Shares of common stock are neither redeemable nor convertible, and there are no sinking fund provisions relating to these shares.

Subject to the prior rights of any outstanding shares of preferred stock, holders of common stock are entitled to receive such dividends as may be lawfully declared from time to time by our Board of Directors (the Board). Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of JCPenney, holders of common stock will share equally in the assets remaining after the Company pays all of its creditors and satisfies all of its obligations to preferred stockholders.

The outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. Additional shares of common stock may be issued, as authorized by our Board from time to time, without stockholder approval, except for any stockholder approval required by the NYSE.

Computershare Inc. (formerly BNY Mellon Shareowner Services) is the transfer agent and registrar of the common stock.

Preferred Stock

Our Charter authorizes our Board, without further stockholder action, to provide for the issuance of up to 25,000,000 shares of preferred stock, without par value, in one or more series, and to fix the designations, terms, and relative rights and preferences, including the dividend rate, voting rights, conversion rights, redemption and sinking fund provisions and liquidation preferences of each of these series. We may amend our Charter from time to time to increase the number of authorized shares of preferred stock. Any such amendment would require the approval of the holders of a majority of our shares entitled to vote.

The particular terms of any series of preferred stock under this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. Those terms may include:

the title and liquidation preference per share of the preferred stock and the number of shares offered;

the purchase price of the preferred stock;

the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends will be payable, whether dividends shall be cumulative and, if so, the date from which dividends will begin to accumulate;

Table of Contents

any redemption or sinking fund provisions of the preferred stock;

any conversion, redemption or exchange provisions of the preferred stock;

the voting rights, if any, of the preferred stock; and

any additional dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions of the preferred stock.

If the terms of any series of preferred stock being offered differ from the terms set forth in this prospectus, those terms will also be disclosed in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to that series of preferred stock. The summary in this prospectus is not complete. You should refer to the certificate of designations establishing a particular series of preferred stock which has been or will be filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware and the SEC in connection with the offering of the preferred stock.

Each prospectus supplement may describe certain U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the purchase, holding and disposition of the preferred stock that prospectus supplement covers.

Dividend Rights. The preferred stock will be preferred, to the extent of the preference to which such preferred stock is entitled, over the common stock as to payment of dividends. Before any dividends or distributions (other than dividends or distributions payable in common stock or other stock ranking junior to that series of preferred stock as to dividends and upon liquidation) on the common stock or other stock ranking junior to that series of preferred stock as to dividends and upon liquidation shall be declared and set apart for payment or paid, the holders of shares of each series of preferred stock, to the extent of the preference to which such preferred stock is entitled, will be entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our Board or, if dividends are cumulative, full cumulative dividends for the current and all prior dividend periods (unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement). We will pay those dividends either in cash, shares of preferred stock, or otherwise, at the rate and on the date or dates set forth in the applicable certificate of designations or prospectus supplement. With respect to each series of preferred stock that has cumulative dividends, the dividends on each share of the series will be cumulative from the date of issue of the share unless some other date is set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the series. Accruals of dividends will not bear interest. The certificate of designations or applicable prospectus supplement will indicate the relative ranking of the particular series of the preferred stock as to the payment of dividends, as compared with then-existing and future series of preferred stock.

Rights upon Liquidation. The preferred stock of each series will be preferred over the common stock and other stock ranking junior to that series of preferred stock as to assets, so that the holders of that series of preferred stock (unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement) will be entitled to be paid, upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, before any distribution is made to the holders of common stock and other stock ranking junior to that series of preferred stock, the amount set forth in the applicable certificate of designations or prospectus supplement. However, in this case the holders of preferred stock of that series will not be entitled to any other or further payment. If upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our net assets are insufficient to permit the payment in full of the respective amounts to which the holders of all outstanding preferred stock are entitled, our entire remaining net assets will be distributed among the holders of each series of preferred stock in amounts proportional to the full amounts to which the holders of each series are entitled, subject to any provisions of any series of preferred stock that rank it junior or senior to other series of preferred stock upon liquidation. The certificate of designations or applicable prospectus supplement will indicate the relative ranking of the particular series of the preferred stock upon liquidation, as compared with then-existing and future series of preferred stock.

Conversion, Redemption or Exchange Rights. Except as indicated in the applicable certificate of designations or prospectus supplement, the shares of a series of preferred stock will not be convertible at the option of the holder of the preferred stock, redeemable at our option or the option of the holder, as applicable, or exchangeable at our option, into another security.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights. Except as indicated in the applicable certificate of designations or prospectus supplement or as otherwise from time to time required by law, the holders of preferred stock will have no voting rights.

Preferred Stock Purchase Rights

Preferred stock purchase rights (the *Rights*) are attached to all shares of our common stock outstanding. These Rights are issued under a Rights Agreement, dated August 22, 2013 (the *Rights Agreement*), between the Company and Computershare Inc., as rights agent. Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase 1/1000th of a share of a newly authorized series of preferred stock of the Company designated Series C Junior Participating Preferred Stock (the *Series C Preferred Stock*) under conditions described in the Rights Agreement. The Rights expire on August 20, 2014, unless such date is extended or the Rights are earlier redeemed or exchanged.

In general terms, the Rights restrict any person or group of affiliated or associated persons (other than the Company, its subsidiaries, or employee benefit plans of the Company or any of its subsidiaries) from acquiring beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the outstanding common stock, or, in the case of any person or group that owned 10% or more of the outstanding common stock on the date of announcement of the Company's entry into the Rights Agreement, any additional shares of common stock. In addition, any person or group who becomes the owner of 10% or more of the outstanding common stock solely as a result of a reduction in the number of shares outstanding due to any repurchase of shares by the Company would be permitted to acquire up to an additional 1% of the outstanding common stock. An *acquiring person* is any person or group who acquires shares of common stock in violation of these limitations.

The Rights will initially trade with, and will be inseparable from, the common stock. The Rights will not be evidenced by separate certificates until they become exercisable. Each Right will allow its holder to purchase from the Company, once the Rights become exercisable, one one-thousandth of a share of Series C Preferred Stock for \$55.00, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms of the Rights Agreement.

The Rights will separate from the common stock and become exercisable on the earlier of (1) the 10th business day following the first date of a public announcement that a person or group has become an *acquiring person*; or (2) the 10th business day (or such later date as the Board may determine) following the commencement after the date of the Rights Agreement of a tender offer or exchange offer that, if consummated, would result in that person or group becoming an *acquiring person*.

If any person or group of affiliated or associated persons becomes an *acquiring person*, then each Right (other than Rights owned by an *acquiring person*, its affiliates, associates or certain transferees, which will become void) will entitle the holder to purchase, at the then current exercise price, common stock (or, in certain circumstances, a combination of common stock, other securities, cash or other property) having a value of twice the exercise price of the Right, in effect enabling a purchase at half-price. However, Rights are not exercisable following such event until such time as the Rights are no longer redeemable by the Company as described below.

In the event that, at any time following the first date of a public announcement by the Company that a person or group has become an *acquiring person*, (1) the Company engages in a merger or other business combination transaction in which the Company is not the surviving corporation, (2) the Company engages in a merger or other business combination transaction in which the Company is the surviving corporation and the common stock of the Company is changed or exchanged, or (3) fifty percent (50%) or more of the Company's assets, cash flow or earning power is sold or transferred, each holder of a Right (except Rights which have previously been voided as set forth above) shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock of the acquiring company having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the Right.

After a person or group becomes an *acquiring person*, but before such person or group owns 50% or more of the outstanding common stock, the Board may exchange the Rights, in whole or in part, at an exchange ratio of

Table of Contents

one share of common stock, or one one-thousandth of a share of Series C Preferred Stock (or of a share of a class or series of the Company preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges) for each Right, other than Rights held by the acquiring person.

The Board may redeem all, but not less than all, of the Rights for \$0.001 per Right at any time prior to the distribution date. The redemption price may, at the option of the Company, be paid in cash or in shares of common stock or other consideration deemed appropriate by the Board. The redemption price will be adjusted in the event of a stock split or stock dividend with respect to the common stock.

The Board has the right to adjust, among other things, the exercise price, as well as the number of preferred shares issuable, and the number of outstanding Rights to prevent dilution that may occur from a stock dividend, a stock split, or a reclassification of the preferred shares or common stock.

The terms of the Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board prior to the distribution date without the consent of the holders of the Rights. The Board may only amend the Rights Agreement after the distribution date for certain limited purposes, such as to cure ambiguity, shorten or lengthen time periods in the Rights Agreement, or other changes that do not adversely affect the holders of the Rights.

Certain Charter, Bylaw and Delaware Law Provisions

Our Charter and Bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law contain several provisions that may make it more difficult to acquire or control us by means of a tender offer, open market purchases, proxy fight or otherwise.

Election of Directors; Removal of Directors; Action by Written Consent

Our directors are elected annually. In a non-contested election, each director must be elected by the affirmative vote of the majority of the votes cast with respect to that director's election. Our Bylaws provide that in a non-contested election, any nominee for director who is an incumbent director and does not receive a majority of the votes cast for his or her election must promptly tender his or her resignation, and the Board, excluding the director who tenders his or her resignation, must promptly decide whether to accept or reject the resignation. Absent a compelling reason for the director to remain on the Board, as determined by the other directors in the exercise of their business judgment, the Board shall accept the resignation. We will promptly and publicly disclose the Board's decision, together with an explanation of how the decision was reached. In a contested election, directors are elected by a plurality of the votes of the shares present in person or represented by proxy at the stockholder meeting and entitled to vote on the election of directors.

Our Charter and Bylaws also provide that stockholders may only take action at an annual or special meeting of the stockholders and not by written consent of stockholders. The provisions regarding action by written consent require the vote of at least a majority of the combined voting power of the then-outstanding shares of voting stock, voting together as a single class in order to remove or amend them.

These provisions may have the effect of discouraging anyone from attempting to acquire control of us and could deter open market purchases of our common stock.

Stockholder Proposals and Nominations

Our Bylaws provide that any stockholder may present a nomination for director at an annual meeting of stockholders only if advance notice of such nomination has been delivered to us not less than 90 days prior to the meeting. If an election of directors is to be held at a special meeting of stockholders, notice by the stockholder must be received not later than seven days after the notice of such meeting was given to stockholders. Similarly, any stockholder may present a proposal at an annual meeting only if advance notice of the proposal has been

Table of Contents

delivered to us not less than 90 days prior to the meeting. The foregoing notices must describe the proposal to be brought at the meeting or the nominee for director, as applicable, as well as provide personal information regarding the stockholder giving the notice, the number of shares owned by the stockholder, his or her interest in such proposal and, with respect to nominations for director, such information with respect to the nominees as would be required to be included in a proxy statement filed by us with the SEC. In addition, our Bylaws provide that only the Board can call special meetings of stockholders and that the only business that may be brought before a special meeting is such business specified by the Board in the notice of such meeting. These procedural requirements could have the effect of delaying or preventing the submission of matters proposed by any stockholder to a vote of the stockholders.

Delaware Law

Section 203 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware applies to us. Under certain circumstances, Section 203 limits the ability of an interested stockholder to effect various business combinations with the Company for a three-year period following the time that such stockholder becomes an interested stockholder. For purposes of Section 203, a business combination is broadly defined to include mergers, asset sales and other transactions resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. An interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns, or within the immediately preceding three years did own, 15 percent or more of our voting stock.

An interested stockholder may not engage in a business combination transaction with the Company within the three-year period unless:

before the stockholder became an interested stockholder, our Board approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;

upon consummation of the transaction in which the stockholder became an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of our voting stock (excluding shares owned by officers, directors or certain employee stock purchase plans); or

at or subsequent to such time, the business combination is approved by the Board and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders, and not by written consent, by the affirmative vote of at least 66²/₃% of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder.

Certain Effects of Authorized But Unissued Stock

Our authorized but unissued shares of common stock and preferred stock may be issued without additional stockholder approval and may be utilized for a variety of corporate purposes, including future offerings to raise additional capital or to facilitate corporate acquisitions.

The issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of us. The issuance of preferred stock could decrease the amount available for distribution to holders of our common stock or could adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of such holders. In certain circumstances, such issuance could have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

One of the effects of the existence of unissued and unreserved common stock or preferred stock may be to enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management, which could render more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of us by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise, and thereby protect the continuity of management. Such additional shares also could be used to dilute the stock ownership of persons seeking to obtain control of us.

We plan to issue additional shares of common stock in connection with our employee benefit plans.

Table of Contents

Limitations on Directors' Liability

Our Charter eliminates the personal liability of a director to the Company and its stockholders for certain breaches of his or her fiduciary duty as a director. This provision does not, however, eliminate or limit the personal liability of a director:

for any breach of such director's duty of loyalty to the Company or its stockholders;

for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law;

under the Delaware statutory provision making directors personally liable, under a negligence standard, for unlawful dividends or unlawful stock repurchases or redemptions; or

for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit.

This provision offers persons who serve on our Board protection against awards of monetary damages resulting from breaches of their fiduciary duty (except as indicated above), including grossly negligent business decisions made in connection with takeover proposals for the Company and limits our ability or the ability of one of our stockholders to prosecute an action against a director for a breach of fiduciary duty. However, the provision does not affect the availability of equitable remedies such as an injunction or rescission. The SEC has taken the position that the provision will have no effect on claims arising under the federal securities laws.

Our Bylaws provide that we may indemnify any of our officers or directors to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law.

Forum Selection

Our Bylaws provide that, unless we consent in writing to the selection of an alternative forum, the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware will be the sole and exclusive forum for:

any derivative action or proceeding brought on behalf of us;

any action asserting a claim of breach of a fiduciary duty owed by any of our directors, officers or other employees to us or our stockholders;

any action asserting a claim arising pursuant to the Delaware General Corporation Law or our Charter or Bylaws; or

any action asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine of the State of Delaware.

In the event that the Court of Chancery lacks jurisdiction over any such action or proceeding, our Bylaws provide that the sole and exclusive forum for such action or proceeding will be another state or federal court located within the State of Delaware. Our Bylaws further provide that any person or entity purchasing or otherwise acquiring any interest in shares of our capital stock is deemed to have notice of and consented to the foregoing provision.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

In this section entitled Description of Depositary Shares, when we refer to the Company, we, our, or us, we are referring to J. C. Penney Company, Inc. and none of its subsidiaries. The following description of the depositary shares does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by the Deposit Agreement and the depositary receipt relating to the preferred stock that is attached to the Deposit Agreement. You should read these documents as they, and not this description, define your rights as a holder of depositary shares. Forms of these documents will be filed with the SEC by means of a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part or as an exhibit to a current report on Form 8-K.

General

If the Company elects to offer fractional interests in shares of preferred stock, it will provide for the issuance by a depositary to the public of receipts for depositary shares. Each depositary share will represent fractional interests of preferred stock. We will deposit the shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares under a Deposit Agreement between us and a bank or trust company selected by us. The bank or trust company must have its principal office in the United States and a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50 million. The depositary receipts will evidence the depositary shares issued under the Deposit Agreement.

The Deposit Agreement will contain terms applicable to the holders of depositary shares in addition to the terms stated in the depositary receipts. Each owner of depositary shares will be entitled to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying the depositary shares in proportion to the applicable fractional interest in the underlying shares of preferred stock. The depositary will issue the depositary receipts to individuals purchasing the fractional interests in shares of the related preferred stock according to the terms of the offering described in a prospectus supplement.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received for the preferred stock to the entitled record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the number of depositary shares that the holder owns on the relevant record date. The depositary will distribute only an amount that can be distributed without attributing to any holder of depositary shares a fraction of one cent. The depositary will add the undistributed balance to and treat it as part of the next sum received by the depositary for distribution to holders of depositary shares.

If there is a non-cash distribution, the depositary will distribute property received by it to the entitled record holders of depositary shares, in proportion, insofar as possible, to the number of depositary shares owned by the holders, unless the depositary determines, after consultation with us, that it is not feasible to make such distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from the sale to the holders. The Deposit Agreement also will contain provisions relating to how any subscription or similar rights that we may offer to holders of the preferred stock will be available to the holders of the depositary shares.

Conversion, Exchange and Redemption

If any series of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares may be converted or exchanged, each record holder of depositary receipts will have the right or obligation to convert or exchange the depositary shares represented by the depositary receipts.

Whenever the Company redeems shares of preferred stock held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, at the same time, the number of depositary shares representing the preferred stock. The depositary will redeem the depositary shares from the proceeds it receives from the corresponding redemption, in whole or in part, of the

Table of Contents

applicable series of preferred stock. The depositary will mail notice of redemption to the record holders of the depositary shares that are to be redeemed between 30 and 60 days before the date fixed for redemption. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share on the applicable series of preferred stock. If less than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary will select which shares to be redeemed by lot, proportionate allocation or any other method.

After the date fixed for redemption, the depositary shares called for redemption will no longer be outstanding. When the depositary shares are no longer outstanding, all rights of the holders will end, except the right to receive money, securities or other property payable upon redemption.

Voting

When the depositary receives notice of a meeting at which the holders of the preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the particulars of the meeting to the record holders of the depositary shares. Each record holder of depositary shares on the record date may instruct the depositary on how to vote the shares of preferred stock underlying the holder's depositary shares. The depositary will try, if practical, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock underlying the depositary shares according to the instructions. The depositary will abstain from voting shares of the preferred stock to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holders of depositary shares representing such preferred stock. We will agree to take all reasonable action requested by the depositary to enable it to vote as instructed.

Record Date

Whenever (1) any cash dividend or other cash distribution shall become payable, any distribution other than cash shall be made, or any rights, preferences or privileges shall be offered with respect to the preferred stock, or (2) the depositary shall receive notice of any meeting at which holders of preferred stock are entitled to vote or of which holders of preferred stock are entitled to notice, or of the mandatory conversion of or any election on our part to call for the redemption of any preferred stock, the depositary shall in each such instance fix a record date (which shall be the same as the record date for the preferred stock) for the determination of the holders of depositary receipts (x) who shall be entitled to receive such dividend, distribution, rights, preferences or privileges or the net proceeds of the sale thereof or (y) who shall be entitled to give instructions for the exercise of voting rights at any such meeting or to receive notice of such meeting or of such redemption or conversion, subject to the provisions of the Deposit Agreement.

Amendments

The Company and the depositary may agree to amend the Deposit Agreement and the depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares. Any amendment that (a) imposes or increases certain fees, taxes or other charges payable by the holders of the depositary shares as described in the Deposit Agreement or (b) otherwise prejudices any substantial existing right of holders of depositary shares, will not take effect until 30 days after the depositary has mailed notice of the amendment to the record holders of depositary shares. Any holder of depositary shares that continues to hold its shares at the end of the 30-day period will be deemed to have agreed to the amendment.

Termination

The Company may direct the depositary to terminate the Deposit Agreement by mailing a notice of termination to holders of depositary shares at least 30 days prior to termination. In addition, a Deposit Agreement will automatically terminate if:

the depositary has redeemed all related outstanding depositary shares, or

we have liquidated, terminated or wound up our business and the depositary has distributed the preferred stock of the relevant series to the holders of the related depositary shares.

Table of Contents

The depositary may likewise terminate the Deposit Agreement if at any time 60 days shall have expired after the depositary shall have delivered to us a written notice of its election to resign and a successor depositary shall not have been appointed and accepted its appointment. If any depositary receipts remain outstanding after the date of termination, the depositary thereafter will discontinue the transfer of depositary receipts, will suspend the distribution of dividends to the holders thereof, and will not give any further notices (other than notice of such termination) or perform any further acts under the Deposit Agreement except as provided below and except that the depositary will continue (1) to collect dividends on the preferred stock and any other distributions with respect thereto and (2) to deliver the preferred stock together with such dividends and distributions and the net proceeds of any sales of rights, preferences, privileges or other property, without liability for interest thereon, in exchange for depositary receipts surrendered. At any time after the expiration of two years from the date of termination, the depositary may sell the preferred stock then held by it at public or private sales, at such place or places and upon such terms as it deems proper and may thereafter hold the net proceeds of any such sale, together with any money and other property then held by it, without liability for interest thereon, for the pro rata benefit of the holders of depositary receipts which have not been surrendered.

Payment of Fees and Expenses

We will pay all fees, charges and expenses of the depositary, including the initial deposit of the preferred stock and any redemption of the preferred stock. Holders of depositary shares will pay transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and any other charges as are stated in the Deposit Agreement for their accounts.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

At any time, the depositary may resign by delivering notice to us, and we may remove the depositary. Resignations or removals will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of the appointment. The successor depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50 million.

Reports

The depositary will forward to the holders of depositary shares all reports and communications from us that are delivered to the depositary and that we are required by law, the rules of an applicable securities exchange or our amended and restated certificate of incorporation to furnish to the holders of the preferred stock. Neither we nor the depositary will be liable if the depositary is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstances beyond its control in performing its obligations under the Deposit Agreement. The Deposit Agreement limits our obligations and the depositary's obligations to performance in good faith of the duties stated in the Deposit Agreement. Neither we nor the depositary will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding connected with any depositary shares or preferred stock unless the holders of depositary shares requesting us to do so furnish us with satisfactory indemnity. In performing our obligations, we and the depositary may rely upon the written advice of our counsel or accountants, on any information that competent people provide to us and on documents that we believe are genuine.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

As used in this Description of Debt Securities section of the prospectus, debt securities means the debentures, notes, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness that JCPenney and JCP, as applicable, may issue from time to time. JCPenney may offer secured or unsecured debt securities which may be senior or subordinated and which may be convertible or non-convertible and which may be guaranteed by JCP. JCP may offer non-convertible secured or unsecured debt securities, which may be senior or subordinated and which will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by JCPenney. JCP and JCPenney, as co-obligors, may offer non-convertible

Table of Contents

secured or unsecured debt securities, which may be senior or subordinated. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities of which JCPenney is the issuer will be issued in one or more series under an indenture to be entered into between JCPenney and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee, and to which JCP may become a party as guarantor, a form of which indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities of which JCP is the issuer and JCPenney is the guarantor will be issued in one or more series under an indenture to be entered into among JCP, as issuer, JCPenney, as guarantor, and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee, a form of which indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities of which JCP and JCPenney are co-obligors will be issued in one or more series under an indenture to be entered into among JCPenney, JCP and Wilmington Trust, National Association, as trustee, a form of which indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

The following description briefly summarizes certain general terms and provisions of the debt securities. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which the general terms and provisions described below may apply to such debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of the debt securities will include those set forth in the applicable indenture and the applicable indenture supplement or company order, if any, and those made a part of the applicable indenture by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. You should read the description below, the applicable prospectus supplement and the provisions of the applicable indenture and the applicable indenture supplement or company order, if any, in their entirety before investing in any of the debt securities. The statements and descriptions in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement regarding terms and provisions of the applicable indenture, any applicable indenture supplement or company order and any debt securities are summaries thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the applicable indenture and any such supplements, company orders and debt securities, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that may be issued under the applicable indenture is unlimited. The debt securities may be issued in one or more series as may be authorized from time to time. The prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities will describe the specific terms of such debt securities. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the issuer of debt securities of a particular series may issue additional debt securities of such series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series or any other series outstanding at the time of issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of securities under the applicable indenture.

United States federal income tax consequences and special considerations, if any, applicable to any such series will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities will not be listed on any securities exchange.

JCPenney and JCP expect most debt securities to be issued in fully registered form without coupons. Subject to the limitations provided in the applicable indenture and in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt securities that are issued in registered form may be transferred or exchanged at the designated corporate trust office of the trustee, without the payment of any service charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository identified in the applicable prospectus supplement. Global securities will be issued in registered form and in either temporary or definitive form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for the individual debt securities, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository for such global security to a nominee of such depository or by a nominee of such depository to such depository or another

Table of Contents

nominee of such depositary or by such depositary or any such nominee to a successor of such depositary or a nominee of such successor. The specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any debt securities of a series and the rights of and limitations upon owners of beneficial interests in a global security will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The debt securities and the indentures under which the debt securities are issued will be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of the State of New York.

We anticipate appointing Wilmington Trust, National Association as the trustee under the indentures under which any of the JCPenney or JCP debt securities would be issued. JCPenney and JCP, as applicable, anticipate that the respective trustee under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities will also be appointed to act as the paying agent, conversion agent, registrar and custodian with regard to such debt securities. Wilmington Trust, National Association is currently the trustee under our existing indenture, dated as of October 1, 1982, by and between JCPenney, JCP and Wilmington Trust, National Association, and our existing indenture, dated as of April 1, 1994, by and between JCPenney, JCP and Wilmington Trust, National Association. Wilmington Trust, National Association and its affiliates may in the future provide trustee, custodial and other services to JCPenney and its subsidiaries, including JCP, in the ordinary course of their respective businesses. There may be more than one trustee under the applicable indenture, each with respect to one or more series of debt securities. If there are different trustees for different series of debt securities under an indenture, each trustee will be a trustee of a trust under the applicable indenture separate and apart from the trust administered by any other trustee under that indenture. Except as otherwise indicated in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, any action permitted to be taken by a trustee may be taken by such trustee only with respect to the one or more series of debt securities for which it is the trustee under the applicable indenture.

DESCRIPTION OF GUARANTEES OF DEBT SECURITIES

This Description of Guarantees of Debt Securities section contains a summary description of the guarantees, if any, of JCP and JCPenney debt securities to which this prospectus relates. This summary description is not meant to be a complete description of the guarantees. At the time of an offering and sale of JCP or JCPenney debt securities, this prospectus together with the accompanying prospectus supplement will describe the material terms of the guarantees, if any, of the JCP or JCPenney debt securities being offered.

JCPenney will fully and unconditionally guarantee the debt securities of JCP. The particular terms of JCPenney's guarantees, if any, of a particular issue of JCP debt securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement. Any guarantees of JCP debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of the State of New York.

JCP may fully and unconditionally guarantee the debt securities of JCPenney. The particular terms of JCP's guarantees, if any, of a particular issue of JCPenney debt securities will be described in the related prospectus supplement. Any guarantees of JCPenney debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of the State of New York.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

General

JCPenney may issue debt warrants for the purchase of debt securities or stock warrants for the purchase of preferred stock or common stock. JCP may issue debt warrants for the purchase of debt securities.

The warrants will be issued under warrant agreements to be entered into between JCPenney and/or JCP, as applicable, and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all to be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any or all warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered. Copies of the

Table of Contents

form of agreement for each warrant, including the forms of certificates representing the warrants reflecting the provisions to be included in such agreements that will be entered into with respect to the particular offerings of each type of warrant are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

The following description sets forth certain general terms and provisions of the warrants to which any prospectus supplement may relate. The particular terms of the warrants to which any prospectus supplement may relate and the extent, if any, to which such general provisions may apply to the warrants so offered will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The following summary of certain provisions of the warrants, warrant agreements and warrant certificates does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by express reference to, all the provisions of the warrant agreements and warrant certificates, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

Debt Warrants

General. Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of debt warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, the debt securities warrant agreement relating to such debt warrants and the debt warrant certificates representing such debt warrants, including the following:

the designation, aggregate principal amount and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of such debt warrants and the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of such debt warrants;

the designation and terms of any related debt securities with which such debt warrants are issued and the number of such debt warrants issued with each such debt security;

the date, if any, on and after which such debt warrants and any related offered securities will be separately transferable;

the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of each debt warrant and the price at which such principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

the date on which the right to exercise such debt warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the ownership or exercise of debt warrants;

whether the debt warrants represented by the debt warrant certificates will be issued in registered or bearer form, and, if registered, where they may be transferred and registered;

call provisions of such debt warrants, if any; and

any other terms of the debt warrants.

The debt warrant certificates will be exchangeable for new debt warrant certificates of different denominations and debt warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their debt warrants, holders of debt warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise and will not be entitled to any payments of principal and premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise.

Edgar Filing: J C PENNEY CO INC - Form 424B5

Exercise of Debt Warrants. Each debt warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash such principal amount of debt securities at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the debt warrants offered thereby. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, debt warrants may be exercised at any time up to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date, unexercised debt warrants will become void.

Table of Contents

Debt warrants may be exercised as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the debt warrants. Upon receipt of payment and the debt warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward the debt securities purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the debt warrants represented by such debt warrant certificate are exercised, a new debt warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of debt warrants.

Stock Warrants

General. Reference is made to the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of stock warrants in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, the stock warrant agreement relating to such stock warrants and the stock warrant certificates representing such stock warrants, including the following:

the type and number of shares of preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon exercise of such stock warrants and the procedures and conditions relating to the exercise of such stock warrants;

the date, if any, on and after which such stock warrants and related offered securities will be separately tradeable;

the offering price of such stock warrants, if any;

the initial price at which such shares may be purchased upon exercise of stock warrants and any provision with respect to the adjustment thereof;

the date on which the right to exercise such stock warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire;

a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the ownership or exercise of stock warrants;

call provisions of such stock warrants, if any;

any other terms of the stock warrants;

anti-dilution provisions of the stock warrants, if any; and

information relating to any preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of such stock warrants.

The stock warrant certificates will be exchangeable for new stock warrant certificates of different denominations and stock warrants may be exercised at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement. Prior to the exercise of their stock warrants, holders of stock warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of shares of capital stock purchasable upon such exercise, and will not be entitled to any dividend payments on such capital stock purchasable upon such exercise.

Exercise of Stock Warrants. Each stock warrant will entitle the holder to purchase for cash such number of shares of preferred stock or common stock, as the case may be, at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or be determinable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the stock warrants offered thereby. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, stock warrants may be exercised at any time up to 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Edgar Filing: J C PENNEY CO INC - Form 424B5

After 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the expiration date, unexercised stock warrants will become void.

Stock warrants may be exercised as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating thereto. Upon receipt of payment and the stock warrant certificates properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, forward a certificate representing the number of shares of capital stock purchasable upon such exercise. If less than all of the stock warrants represented by such stock warrant certificate are exercised, a new stock warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of stock warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

In this section entitled Description of Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units, when we refer to the Company, we, or us, we are referring to J. C. Penney Company, Inc. and none of its subsidiaries. The Company may issue stock purchase contracts, representing contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and requiring us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock at a future date or dates. The price per share of common stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as a part of units, or stock purchase units, consisting of a stock purchase contract and either (x) senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities, or (y) debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, in each case, securing the holder's obligations to purchase the common stock under the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase contracts or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner and in certain circumstances we may deliver newly issued prepaid stock purchase contracts, or prepaid securities, upon release to a holder of any collateral securing such holder's obligations under the original stock purchase contract.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units and, if applicable, prepaid securities. The description in the prospectus supplement will not purport to be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the stock purchase contracts, the collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements, if applicable, relating to such stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units and, if applicable, the prepaid securities and the document pursuant to which such prepaid securities will be issued.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

JCPenney or JCP, as applicable, may sell the securities being offered hereby in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

to underwriters for resale to purchasers;

directly to purchasers; or

through agents or dealers to purchasers.

The specific plan of distribution, including any underwriters, dealers, agents or direct purchasers and their compensation, for any securities offered hereunder will be identified in a prospectus supplement.

In compliance with the guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA), the maximum discount or commission to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker-dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate offering price of the securities offered hereunder.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities being offered hereby will be passed upon for the Company by Janet Dhillon, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. As of April 18, 2013, Ms. Dhillon beneficially owned 175,211 shares of J. C. Penney Company, Inc. common stock, 145,580 of which may be acquired through the exercise of employee stock options. Counsel for any underwriter or agent will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of JCPenney as of February 2, 2013 and January 28, 2012 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended February 2, 2013, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of February 2, 2013 have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, also incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

84 million Shares

J. C. Penney Company, Inc.

COMMON STOCK

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

September 26, 2013