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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

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**FORM 8-K**

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**CURRENT REPORT**  
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15 (d)  
of The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): November 14, 2018

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**XCEL BRANDS, INC.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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Delaware  
(State or Other Jurisdiction  
of Incorporation)

001-37527  
(Commission  
File Number)

76-0307819  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

1333 Broadway, New York, New York  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

10018  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (347) 727-2474

Not Applicable  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

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**Item 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Conditions.**

On November 14, 2018, the Registrant issued a press release announcing its financial results for the fiscal quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2018. As noted in the press release, the Registrant has provided certain non-U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) financial measures, the reasons it provided such measures and a reconciliation of the non-U.S. GAAP measures to U.S. GAAP measures. Readers should consider non-GAAP measures in addition to, and not as a substitute for, measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. A copy of the Registrant’s press release is being furnished hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

[99.1](#) [Press Release of XCel Brands, Inc. dated November 14, 2018.](#)

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**SIGNATURES**

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

**XCEL BRANDS, INC.**  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ James F. Haran  
Name: James F. Haran  
Title: Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 15, 2018

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**XCEL BRANDS, INC. ANNOUNCES THIRD QUARTER 2018 FINANCIAL RESULTS**

***Company Reports Third Quarter Total Revenues of \$8.3 Million; +5 % from Prior Year Quarter***

***Third Quarter Operating Income of \$1.4 Million, +11 % from Prior Year Quarter***

***Third Quarter Net Income of Approximately \$1.0 Million, Non-GAAP Net Income of \$1.6 Million;  
Adjusted EBITDA of \$2.3 Million***

NEW YORK, NY (November 14, 2018) – Xcel Brands, Inc. (NASDAQ: XELB) (“Xcel” or the “Company”), a consumer products company, today announced its financial results for the third quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2018.

Robert W. D’Loren, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Xcel commented, “Our third quarter results saw a marked improvement in total revenues, operating income and net income from the prior year. We continue to experience positive momentum across our multiple channels of distribution, including expanding our wholesale and direct to consumer platforms. He further stated, I am pleased by our results and the direction we are heading.”

**Third Quarter 2018 Financial Results**

Total revenue for the third quarter of 2018 was \$8.3 million, a net increase of \$0.4 million over the prior year quarter, primarily driven by sales from the Company’s jewelry wholesale and e-commerce business. Net revenue for the third quarter of 2018 increased \$1 million from \$7.9 million to \$8.0 million as higher licensing revenue from the Company’s ongoing interactive television business was primarily offset by lower revenue associated with the previously reported transition of the C. Wonder Brand from QVC, whose sell-off period terminated in January 2018.

Net income was approximately \$1.0 million for the quarter ended September 30, 2018, or \$0.05, per basic and diluted share, compared with net income of \$0.3 million, or \$0.01 per basic and diluted share, for the prior year quarter. After adjusting for certain cash and non-cash items, non-GAAP net income for the quarters ended September 30, 2018 and September 30, 2017, were approximately \$1.6 million, or \$0.09 per diluted share for each period.

Adjusted EBITDA for the quarter ended September 30, 2018 was approximately \$2.33 million, compared to approximately \$2.36 million in the prior year quarter, a decrease of \$0.03 million from the same quarter in the prior year.

**Nine Months Ended September 30, 2018 Financial Results**

Total revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was \$25.5 million, an increase of \$0.8 million or 3% over the prior year period. Total revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was positively affected by the launch of the wholesale and e-commerce jewelry business. Net revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was \$24.9 million, an increase of \$0.19 from the prior year period primarily attributable to net margin from wholesale and e-commerce sales of our jewelry business.

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Net income was approximately \$1.4 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2018, or \$0.07 per basic and diluted share, an increase of \$1.3 million, or \$0.07 per basic and diluted share from the prior year nine months. After adjusting for certain cash and non-cash items, non-GAAP net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was approximately \$4.5 million, or \$0.25 per diluted share, compared with \$4.3 million, or \$0.22 per diluted share in the prior year nine months, representing an increase of 6% and 12%, respectively, from the prior year period.

Adjusted EBITDA for the nine months ended September 30, 2018 was approximately \$6.7 million, an increase of \$0.15 million, or 2.3% from the prior year period.

See reconciliation tables below for non-GAAP metrics. These non-GAAP metrics may be inconsistent with similar measures presented by other companies and should only be used in conjunction with our results reported according to U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). Any financial measure other than those prepared in accordance with GAAP should not be considered a substitute for, or superior to, measures of financial performance prepared in accordance with GAAP.

The Company’s balance sheet at September 30, 2018 remained strong, with stockholders’ equity of approximately \$100 million, cash and cash equivalents of \$8.6 million, and working capital, exclusive of contingent obligations payable with stock, of approximately \$11.2 million. During the current nine months, the Company reduced its term debt by approximately \$4.5 million to approximately \$17.6 million.

#### **Conference Call and Webcast**

The Company will host a conference call with members of the executive management team to discuss these results with additional comments and details at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. A webcast of the conference call will be available live on the Investor Relations section of Xcel’s website at [www.xcelbrands.com](http://www.xcelbrands.com). Interested parties unable to access the conference call via the webcast may dial 1-855-327-6837. A replay of the conference call will be available on the Company website for 30 days following the event and can be accessed at 844-512-2921 using replay pin number 10005329.

#### **About Xcel Brands**

Xcel Brands, Inc. (NASDAQ:XELB) is a media and consumer products company engaged in the design, production, marketing, and direct-to-consumer sales of branded apparel, footwear, accessories, jewelry, home goods and other consumer products, and the acquisition of dynamic consumer lifestyle brands. Xcel was founded by Robert W. D’Loren in 2011 with a vision to reimagine shopping, entertainment, and social as one. Xcel owns and manages the Isaac Mizrahi, Judith Ripka, H Halston, C. Wonder, and Highline Collective brands, pioneering a ubiquitous sales strategy which includes the promotion and sale of products under its brands through interactive television, internet, brick-and-mortar retail, and e-commerce channels. Headquartered in New York City, Xcel Brands is led by an executive team with significant production, merchandising, design, marketing, retailing, and licensing experience, and a proven track record of success in elevating branded consumer products companies. With a team of over 100 professionals focused on design, production, and digital marketing, Xcel maintains control of product quality and promotion across all of its product categories and distribution channels. Xcel differentiates by design. [www.xcelbrands.com](http://www.xcelbrands.com)

**Forward Looking Statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements. All statements other than statements of historical fact contained in this press release, including statements regarding future events, our future financial performance, business strategy and plans and objectives of management for future operations, are forward-looking statements. We have attempted to identify forward-looking statements by terminology including “anticipates,” “believes,” “can,” “continue,” “ongoing,” “could,” “estimates,” “expects,” “intends,” “may,” “appears,” “suggests,” “future,” “likely,” “goal,” “plans,” “potential,” “projects,” “predicts,” “seeks,” “should,” “would,” “guidance,” “confident” or “will” or the negative of these terms or other comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding our anticipated revenue, expenses, profitability, strategic plans and capital needs. These statements are based on information available to us on the date hereof and our current expectations, estimates and projections and are not guarantees of future performance. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, assumptions and other factors, including, without limitation, the risks discussed in the “Risk Factors” section and elsewhere in the Company’s Annual Report on form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017 and its other filings with the SEC, which may cause our or our industry’s actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Moreover, we operate in a very competitive and rapidly changing environment. New risks emerge from time to time and it is not possible for us to predict all risk factors, nor can we address the impact of all factors on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause our actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. Except as expressly required by the federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, changed circumstances or any other reason.

**For further information please contact:**

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**Xcel Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets**  
(in thousands, except share and per share data)

	<u>September 30, 2018</u> (Unaudited)	<u>December 31, 2017</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,638	\$ 10,185
Accounts receivable, net	9,640	8,528
Inventory	924	-
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,508	592
Total current assets	<u>20,710</u>	<u>19,305</u>
Property and equipment, net	2,999	2,376
Trademarks and other intangibles, net	109,272	110,120
Restricted cash	1,509	1,509
Other assets	726	1,708
Total non-current assets	<u>114,506</u>	<u>115,713</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 135,216</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 135,018</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other current liabilities	\$ 2,499	\$ 1,260
Accrued payroll	1,653	2,270
Deferred revenue	13	16
Current portion of long-term debt	5,315	5,459
Current portion of long-term debt, contingent obligations	2,950	100
Total current liabilities	<u>12,430</u>	<u>9,105</u>
<b>Long-Term Liabilities:</b>		
Long-term debt, less current portion	12,266	19,389
Deferred tax liabilities, net	8,092	6,375
Other long-term liabilities	2,307	2,455
Total long-term liabilities	<u>22,665</u>	<u>28,219</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>35,095</u>	<u>37,324</u>
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b>		
<b>Stockholders' Equity:</b>		
Preferred stock, \$.001 par value, 1,000,000 shares authorized, none issued and outstanding	-	-
Common stock, \$.001 par value, 50,000,000 shares authorized at September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively, and 18,266,202 and 18,318,961 issued and outstanding at September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017, respectively	18	18
Paid-in capital	100,055	98,997
Retained earnings (accumulated deficit)	48	(1,321)
Total Stockholders' Equity	<u>100,121</u>	<u>97,694</u>
<b>Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity</b>	<b><u>\$ 135,216</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 135,018</u></b>

**Xcel Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations**  
(in thousands, except share and per share data)

	For the Three Months Ended September 30,		For the Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
<b>Revenues</b>				
Net licensing revenue	\$ 7,823	7,890	\$ 24,445	\$ 24,690
Sales	444	-	1,075	-
Total revenue	8,267	7,890	25,520	24,690
Cost of goods sold (sales)	231	-	640	-
Net revenues	8,036	7,890	24,880	24,690
<b>Operating costs and expenses</b>				
Salaries, benefits and employment taxes	3,815	4,079	12,361	12,806
Other design and marketing costs	639	287	2,194	1,803
Other selling, general and administrative expenses	1,281	1,188	3,691	3,602
Stock-based compensation	447	690	1,415	2,496
Depreciation and amortization	456	389	1,323	1,173
Total operating costs and expenses	6,638	6,633	20,984	21,880
Operating income	1,398	1,257	3,896	2,810
<b>Interest and finance expense</b>				
Interest expense - term debt	224	273	706	905
Other interest and finance charges	34	41	104	135
Total interest and finance expense	258	314	810	1,040
Income before income taxes	1,140	943	3,086	1,770
Income tax provision	158	691	1,717	1,704
Net income	<u>\$ 982</u>	<u>\$ 252</u>	<u>\$ 1,369</u>	<u>\$ 66</u>
Basic net income per share:	<u>\$ 0.05</u>	<u>\$ 0.01</u>	<u>\$ 0.07</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Diluted net income per share:	<u>\$ 0.05</u>	<u>\$ 0.01</u>	<u>\$ 0.07</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Basic weighted average common shares outstanding	<u>18,266,202</u>	<u>18,470,977</u>	<u>18,304,608</u>	<u>18,530,963</u>
Diluted weighted average common shares outstanding	<u>18,267,043</u>	<u>18,872,753</u>	<u>18,310,654</u>	<u>18,896,418</u>

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**Xcel Brands, Inc. and Subsidiaries**  
**Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows**  
(in thousands)

	<b>For the Nine Months Ended</b>	
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net income	\$ 1,369	\$ 66
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization expense	1,323	1,173
Amortization of deferred finance costs	129	146
Stock-based compensation	1,415	2,496
Amortization of note discount	31	28
Deferred income tax provision	1,717	1,704
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(1,112)	(2,548)
Inventory	(924)	-
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(51)	211
Accounts payable, accrued expenses and other current liabilities	967	(1,237)
Deferred revenue	(3)	(161)
Other liabilities	(148)	456
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>4,713</b>	<b>2,334</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Cost to acquire intangible assets	-	(23)
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,099)	(167)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(1,099)</b>	<b>(190)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Shares repurchased including vested restricted stock in exchange for withholding taxes	(702)	(814)
Payment of deferred finance costs	-	(7)
Payment of long-term debt	(4,459)	(7,177)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(5,161)</b>	<b>(7,998)</b>
<b>Net decrease in cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash</b>	<b>(1,547)</b>	<b>(5,854)</b>
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at beginning of period	11,694	15,636
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash at end of period	<u>\$ 10,147</u>	<u>\$ 9,782</u>
<b>Reconciliation to amounts on consolidated balance sheets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 8,638	\$ 8,273
Restricted cash	1,509	1,509
<b>Total cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash</b>	<b>\$ 10,147</b>	<b>\$ 9,782</b>
<b>Supplemental disclosure of non-cash activities:</b>		
Settlement of Ripka earnout through offset to note receivable	<u>\$ 100</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<b>Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:</b>		
Cash paid during the period for income taxes	<u>\$ 258</u>	<u>\$ 151</u>
Cash paid during the period for interest	<u>\$ 754</u>	<u>\$ 1,175</u>

**Non-GAAP net income:**

(amounts in thousands)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net income	\$ 982	\$ 252	\$ 1,369	\$ 66
Non-cash interest and finance expense	11	9	31	28
Stock-based compensation	447	690	1,415	2,496
Deferred income tax provision	158	691	1,717	1,704
Non-GAAP net income	<u>\$ 1,598</u>	<u>\$ 1,642</u>	<u>\$ 4,532</u>	<u>\$ 4,294</u>

**Non-GAAP diluted EPS:**

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.07	\$ -
Non-cash interest and finance expense	-	0.00	-	-
Stock-based compensation	0.03	0.04	0.08	0.13
Deferred income tax provision	0.01	0.04	0.10	0.09
Non-GAAP diluted EPS	<u>\$ 0.09</u>	<u>\$ 0.09</u>	<u>\$ 0.25</u>	<u>\$ 0.22</u>

**Adjusted EBITDA:**

(amounts in thousands)	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Net income	\$ 982	\$ 252	\$ 1,369	\$ 66
Depreciation and amortization	456	389	1,323	1,173
Interest and finance expense	258	314	810	1,040
Income tax provision	158	691	1,717	1,704
State and local franchise taxes	33	25	80	81
Stock-based compensation	447	690	1,415	2,496
Adjusted EBITDA	<u>\$ 2,334</u>	<u>\$ 2,361</u>	<u>\$ 6,714</u>	<u>\$ 6,560</u>

Non-GAAP net income and non-GAAP diluted EPS are non-GAAP unaudited terms. We define non-GAAP net income as net income, exclusive of stock-based compensation, non-cash interest expense from discounted debt related to acquired assets, and deferred tax provision. Non-GAAP net income and non-GAAP diluted EPS measures do not include the tax effect of the aforementioned adjusting items, due to the nature of these items and the Company's tax strategy.

Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP unaudited measure, which we define as net income before stock-based compensation, interest and finance expense, income taxes, other state and local franchise taxes, and depreciation and amortization.

Management uses non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA as measures of operating performance to assist in comparing performance from period to period on a consistent basis and to identify business trends relating to our results of operations. Management believes non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA are also useful because they provide supplemental information to assist investors in evaluating our financial results. Non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered in isolation or as alternatives to net income, earnings per share, or any other measure of financial performance calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP. Given that non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA are financial measures not deemed to be in accordance with GAAP and are susceptible to varying calculations, our non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies, including companies in our industry, because other companies may calculate non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA in a different manner than we calculate these measures. In evaluating non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA, you should be aware that in the future we may or may not incur expenses similar to some of the adjustments in this document. Our presentation of non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA does not imply that our future results will be unaffected by these expenses or any unusual or non-recurring items. When evaluating our performance, you should consider non-GAAP net income, non-GAAP diluted EPS, and Adjusted EBITDA alongside other financial performance measures, including our net income and other GAAP results, and not rely on any single financial measure.

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