

PRIMO WATER CORP /CN/

FORM 8-K (Current report filing)

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Telephone	813-313-1732
CIK	0000884713
Symbol	PRMW
SIC Code	2086 - Bottled and Canned Soft Drinks and Carbonated Waters
Industry	Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Sector	Consumer Non-Cyclicals
Fiscal Year	12/02

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15 (d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report April 20, 2004
(Date of earliest reported event)

COTT CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

CANADA	000-19914	None
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(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

207 Queen's Quay West, Suite 340
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1A7
(Address of principal executive offices) (Postal Code)

(416) 203-3898
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 12. RESULTS OF OPERATION AND FINANCIAL CONDITION

On April 20, 2004 Cott Corporation issued a press release announcing its financial results for the three month period ended April 3, 2004. This press release is furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1 of this Form 8-K and is incorporated by reference into this Item 12 as if fully set forth herein.

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 thereunto duly authorized.

COTT CORPORATION

(Registrant)

Date: April 20, 2004

/s/ Raymond P. Silcock

Raymond P. Silcock
Executive Vice President &
Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Number -----	Description -----
99.1	Press Release dated April 20, 2004 announcing the Company's earnings for the three month period ended April 3, 2004.

COTT CORPORATION REPORTS RECORD RESULTS IN FIRST QUARTER;

- SALES UP 26% TO \$370.9 MILLION;**
- DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE RISE 40% TO \$0.21;**
- COMPANY RAISES GUIDANCE AND PLANS TO LIMIT DIRECTORS' OPTIONS**

(All information in U.S. dollars)

TORONTO -- APRIL 20, 2004 - Cott Corporation (NYSE:COT; TSX:BCB) today announced record sales and earnings per share for the first quarter ended April 3, 2004. Sales in the first quarter were up 26% to \$370.9 million compared to \$295.3 million last year. Excluding the impact of acquisitions and foreign exchange, sales were up 18%. Earnings per diluted share were \$0.21; an increase of 40% from last year's reported \$0.15.

"Retailer branded soft drinks are outpacing category growth as in 2003," said Frank E. Weise, Cott's chairman and chief executive officer. "This strong performance underlines our customers' commitment to their own-brand beverage programs. At the same time, these record results are a credit to Cott employees and their delivery of superior products and services."

Sales in the Company's UK/Europe business unit rose 45%, up 26% excluding foreign exchange. In the US business unit, sales were up 21%, up 15% excluding the impact of acquisitions. Canada saw a 25% increase in sales, up 9% excluding the impact of foreign exchange; and sales for the International business unit doubled to \$14.7 million, of which sales in Mexico amounted to \$9.0 million.

Commenting on the sales growth, John K. Sheppard, Cott president and chief operating officer added, "Our customer-centric approach to the business continues to make a significant impact across all business units." He said sales growth in the Company's U.S. business unit was driven by new product development and merchandising programs, while in Canada it was as a result of Cott's continued efforts in the grocery channels. In the U.K. business unit, sales were up in all channels and were also favorably affected by the impact of the Nichols business. Sales in Mexico were up almost three fold, as customers there continue to demonstrate their commitment to building their retailer branded soft drink programs.

Gross margin for the quarter was 19.0% compared to 19.1% last year. Operating income of \$31.7 million was up 28% from last year's \$24.8 million. Cott created a reserve against certain Canadian export receivables, resulting in a charge of \$2.3 million in the first quarter.

Earlier in the quarter, the Company announced that it had acquired assets of The Cardinal Companies of Elizabethtown, LLC, including a bottling facility located in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, with the objective of strengthening the Company's capabilities in the mid-western U.S. Full terms of this transaction were not disclosed.

During the quarter, Cott announced the appointment of John K. Sheppard as chief executive officer, effective September 1, 2004. Sheppard currently serves as president and chief operating officer. Weise, the company's chief executive officer since 1998, will remain chairman with an active role in assisting management in long-term strategy, customer relations and investor relations.

The Company also amended its guidance for the full year, raising its estimate of earnings per diluted share to \$1.23-\$1.27. Sales are expected to increase 12-15%. EBITDA is expected to reach \$220 million to \$225 million. (see below for discussion of EBITDA). Capital spending is expected to be held to \$55 million in 2004.

Finally, in response to evolving market practices and to the policies of representative shareowner groups, Cott announced that it has decided to amend its Common Share Option Plan to limit the number of options that may be granted to directors of Cott who are not also employees or officers of Cott. The amendment provides that the aggregate number of common shares that may be issued, pursuant to the exercise of options, to directors who are not also officers or employees of Cott be limited to 0.5% of the total number of issued and outstanding common shares on the date of the grant of options. Options that are held by directors that were granted to them when they were officers or employees of Cott will not be counted for purposes of calculating the 0.5% amount.

This amendment is in addition to the amendment to the Option Plan that will be voted on at Cott's upcoming annual meeting, and while this amendment is not the subject of the upcoming vote, the Company intends to administer the Option Plan in accordance with this amendment pending regulatory approval.

Currently, there are a total of 240,000 options that have been granted (and are outstanding) to directors who are not officers or employees of Cott, representing approximately 0.34% of the number of total issued and outstanding common shares.

* * *

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS CONFERENCE CALL

Cott Corporation will host a conference call today, Tuesday, April 20th at approximately 10:00 AM ET to discuss first quarter financial results.

For those who wish to listen to the presentation, there is a listen-only dial-in telephone line, which can be accessed as follows:

North America: (800)-814-4860 International: (416)-640-1907

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cott Corporation's annual general meeting of shareowners will take place on Tuesday, April 27, 2004 at 8:30 AM ET at the Glenn Gould Studio, CBC Building, 250 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario.

WEBCAST

To access the conference call today and the Annual General Meeting on April 27th over the Internet, please visit Cott's website at <http://www.cott.com> on both dates at least fifteen minutes early to register, download, and install any necessary audio/video software. For those who are unable to access the live broadcasts, a replay will be available at Cott's website following these events until May 11th, 2004.

ABOUT COTT CORPORATION

Cott Corporation is the world's largest retailer brand soft drink supplier, with the leading take home carbonated soft drink market shares in this segment in its core markets of the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

NON-GAAP MEASURE

EBITDA is defined as earnings from continuing operations before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization. Cott uses operating income as its primary measure of performance and cash flow from operations as its primary measure of liquidity. Nevertheless, Cott presents EBITDA in its filings for several reasons. Cott uses multiples of EBITDA and discounted cash flows in determining the value of its operations. In addition, Cott uses "cash return on assets," a financial measure calculated by dividing Cott's annualized EBITDA by its aggregate operating assets, for the purposes of calculating performance-related bonus compensation for its management employees, because that measure reflects the ability of management to generate cash while preserving assets. Finally, Cott includes EBITDA in its filings because it believes that its current and potential investors use multiples of EBITDA to make investment decisions about Cott. Investors should not consider EBITDA an alternative to net income, nor to cash provided by operating activities, nor any other indicators of performance or liquidity which have been determined in accordance with U.S. or Canadian GAAP. Cott's method of calculating EBITDA may differ from the methods used by other companies and, accordingly, Cott's EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures used by other companies.

SAFE HARBOR STATEMENTS

This press release contains forward-looking statements reflecting management's current expectations regarding future results of operations, economic performance, financial condition and achievements of the Company. Forward-looking statements, specifically those concerning future performance, are subject to certain risks and uncertainties, and actual results may differ materially. These risks and uncertainties are detailed from time to time in the Company's filings with the appropriate securities commissions, and include, without limitation, stability of procurement costs for raw and packaging materials, adverse weather conditions, competitive activities by national, regional and retailer brand beverage manufacturers, the Company's ability to develop new products that appeal to consumer tastes, the Company's ability to identify acquisition candidates, successfully consummate acquisitions and integrate acquired businesses into its operations, fluctuations in currency versus the U.S. dollar, the uncertainties of litigation, loss of key customers and retailers' continued commitment to their retailer brand beverage

programs. The foregoing list of factors is not exhaustive. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements.

COTT CONTACTS

Media Relations Rod Jimenez	Tel: (416) 203-5606
Investor Relations Edmund O'Keefe	Tel: (416) 203-5617

EXHIBIT 1

COTT CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS EXCEPT PER SHARE AMOUNTS, US GAAP)
UNAUDITED

	FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED	
	APRIL 3, 2004	MARCH 29, 2003
SALES	\$ 370.9	\$ 295.3
Cost of sales	300.5	238.9
	-----	-----
GROSS PROFIT	70.4	56.4
Selling, general and administrative expenses	38.7	31.6
	-----	-----
OPERATING INCOME	31.7	24.8
Other expense, net	0.3	0.5
Interest expense, net	6.6	7.7
Minority interest	1.0	0.6
	-----	-----
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES AND EQUITY LOSS	23.8	16.0
Income taxes	(8.3)	(5.4)
Equity loss	(0.1)	(0.1)
	-----	-----
NET INCOME	\$ 15.4	\$ 10.5
	=====	=====
VOLUME - 8 OZ EQUIVALENT CASES	270.1	208.1
NET INCOME PER SHARE		
Basic	\$ 0.22	\$ 0.15
Diluted	\$ 0.21	\$ 0.15

EXHIBIT 2

COTT CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS, US GAAP)
UNAUDITED

	FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED	
	APRIL 3, 2004	MARCH 29, 2003
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income	\$ 15.4	\$ 10.5
Depreciation and amortization	15.0	12.1
Amortization of financing fees	0.2	0.9
Deferred income taxes	(0.3)	2.1
Minority interest	1.0	0.6
Equity loss	0.1	0.1
Other non-cash items	0.3	0.3
Net change in non-cash working capital	(12.7)	(1.7)
	-----	-----
Cash provided by operating activities	19.0	24.9
	-----	-----
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(11.3)	(10.1)
Acquisitions and equity investments	(17.7)	(0.3)
Other	(0.2)	--
	-----	-----
Cash used in investing activities	(29.2)	(10.4)
	-----	-----
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payments of long-term debt	(2.2)	(38.0)
Short-term borrowings	2.1	21.7
Distributions to subsidiary minority shareowner	(1.2)	(1.2)
Issue of common shares	2.2	1.1
Other financing activities	(0.1)	--
	-----	-----
Cash provided by (used in) financing activities	0.8	(16.4)
	-----	-----
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(9.4)	(1.9)
CASH, BEGINNING OF PERIOD	18.4	3.3
	-----	-----
CASH, END OF PERIOD	\$ 9.0	\$ 1.4
	=====	=====

EXHIBIT 3

COTT CORPORATION CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS, US GAAP)

	UNAUDITED APRIL 3, 2004	AUDITED JANUARY 3, 2004
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 9.0	\$ 18.4
Accounts receivable	169.2	148.8
Inventories	119.9	94.4
Prepaid and other expenses	6.5	5.5
	-----	-----
	304.6	267.1
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	328.8	314.3
GOODWILL	81.2	81.6
INTANGIBLES AND OTHER ASSETS	244.6	245.8
	-----	-----
	\$ 959.2	\$ 908.8
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES AND SHAREOWNERS' EQUITY		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Short-term borrowings	\$ 80.3	\$ 78.1
Current maturities of long-term debt	1.5	3.3
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	173.0	140.5
	-----	-----
	254.8	221.9
LONG-TERM DEBT	275.6	275.7
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES	40.6	40.5
	-----	-----
	571.0	538.1
MINORITY INTEREST	25.4	25.6
SHAREOWNERS' EQUITY		
Capital stock	270.9	267.9
Retained earnings	98.7	83.3
Accumulated other comprehensive income	(6.8)	(6.1)
	-----	-----
	362.8	345.1
	-----	-----
	\$ 959.2	\$ 908.8
	=====	=====

EXHIBIT 4**COTT CORPORATION**
SEGMENT INFORMATION
(IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS, US GAAP)
UNAUDITED

	FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED	
	APRIL 3, 2004	MARCH 29, 2003
SALES		
USA	\$ 273.1	\$ 226.6
Canada	39.8	31.8
UK & Europe	42.7	29.5
International	14.7	7.2
Corporate & Other	0.6	0.2
	-----	-----
	\$ 370.9	\$ 295.3
	=====	=====
OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)		
USA	\$ 31.1	\$ 25.5
Canada	0.4	0.8
UK & Europe	1.6	(0.3)
International	2.7	1.3
Corporate & Other	(4.1)	(2.5)
	-----	-----
	\$ 31.7	\$ 24.8
	=====	=====

EXHIBIT 5

COTT CORPORATION
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - NON GAAP MEASURES
 (IN MILLIONS OF US DOLLARS)
UNAUDITED

	FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED	
	APRIL 3, 2004	MARCH 29, 2003
NET INCOME	\$ 15.4	\$ 10.5
Depreciation and amortization	15.0	12.1
Interest expense, net	6.6	7.7
Income taxes	8.3	5.4
	-----	-----
EBITDA	\$ 45.3	\$ 35.7
	=====	=====
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 1, 2005 -- GUIDANCE		
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	\$87 - \$91	
Depreciation and amortization	\$58	
Interest expense, net	\$30	
Income taxes	\$45 - \$46	

EBITDA	\$220 - \$225	
	=====	

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