

Edgar Filing: FRIEDMANS INC - Form 8-K

arising from guarantees are included in fixed charges, LESS capitalized interest and the minority interest in pre-tax income of subsidiaries that have not incurred fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest costs, whether expensed or capitalized, the interest component of rental expense and amortization of debt costs, discounts and issue costs, whether expensed or capitalized. The following table sets forth our consolidated ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods shown:

| FISCAL YEARS ENDED | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| SEPTEMBER 30, 1997 | SEPTEMBER 30, 1998 | SEPTEMBER 30, 1999 | SEPTEMBER 30, 2000 | SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 |
| 7.8x | 3.1x | 3.8x | 3.8x | 2.4x(1) |

(1) We have guaranteed the obligations of our affiliate, Crescent Jewelers, under their credit facility which matures on March 31, 2002. While we expect Crescent to be able to replace their credit facility prior to its maturity date, we have recorded the entire outstanding amount under Crescent's credit facility as a liability on our balance sheet at September 29, 2001. Assuming that we had been required to service this indebtedness (\$108 million at September 29, 2001) under our guarantee during fiscal 2001 at a borrowing rate of 6.57% (Crescent's borrowing rate at September 29, 2001), our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges for the fiscal year ended September 29, 2001 would have been 1.9x. Please refer to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 29, 2001, for more information.

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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.

FRIEDMAN'S INC.
(Registrant)

Date: January 24, 2002

By: /s/ Victor M. Suglia

Victor M. Suglia
Senior Vice President,
Chief Financial Officer
and Secretary

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