# URBAN OUTFITTERS

CONDENSED REPORT

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## Market Research

## **Company Profile**

Urban Outfitters is a publically held company whose headquarters are home to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is a lifestyle retailer dedicated to inspiring customers through a unique combination of product, creativity, and cultural understanding. With over 200+ store locations UO can be found in the United States, Canada, and Europe. The company is also recognized for its other chains including Anthropologie, Free People, Vetri Family, Terrain, and BHLDN (URBN, 2018).

#### **Financial Summary**

When household disposable income is high, consumers have more power to be able to afford discretionary items such as clothing. Per capita income was expected to increase over the 2017 year presenting a potential opportunity for the fashion industry (O'Connor, 2018). The financial performance for 2013 took a dip with a lower disposable income and then skyrocketed in 2015 (O'Connor, 2018). Shown in figure 1.1 below, Urban Outfitters expenditures and costs have steadily been increasing, but they have also experienced a net profit in slow decline. This decrease in profit could be due to the inflation within the apparel industry as well as Urban Outfitters brick-and-mortar expansion projects (Urban Outfitters Inc, 2018.)



#### **Brand and Fashion Concept**

Founded in 1970 Urban Outfitters was strategized with the intent to be a passionate, creative, entrepreneurial group who think outside of the box and are all about providing a unique shopping experience while inspiring and connecting with others. UO began as a small shop on a college campus and is committed to supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs. The company's main categories of merchandise include Women's, Men's Accessories, Apartment, Music, Tech, Beauty, and Intimates (URBN, 2018).

The contemporary market is distributed through independently owned retail locations and through a globally expanded online shop (URBN, 2018). The two distribution centers in America are located in Reno, Nevada and Gap, Pennsylvania; with the other two located in Rushden, England, and United Kingdom (URBAN, 2018). Urban Outfitters has a "mission of delivering a distinctive, recognizable shopping concept, whether a customer visits a brick-and-mortar store, goes online to the website, or makes a selection through its mail-order catalogs" (McCue, 2015).

## **Market Position and Competition**

Urban Outfitters most prominent competitors include Abercrombie & Fitch and American Eagle Outfitters (Competition, 2015). American Eagle primarily reaches the middle and upper classes and to all gender and ethnicities between the ages of 15-25 (American Eagle Outfitters Market Segmentation, 2018). Abercrombie & Fitch reaches ages between 18-22 and has almost double the amount of retail stores open at around 400. This gives them the upper hand when it comes to be the

most readily available to their customers (Competition, 2015).

When comparing revenue, in 2017, all three stores were relatively on the same playing field as URBN, AEO, and ANF who all profited around 3.5 billion dollars.

This is demonstrated in figure 2.1 below (American Eagle Outfitters Inc., 2018", "Urban Outfitters Inc., 2018", "Fashion – worldwide Statista Market Forecast, 2018").



#### **Product Comparison**

American Eagle and Abercrombie & Fitch were relevant as Urban Outfitters' competitors also in part by their similar merchandise assortment. When breaking it down to each brand's women's selection, the apparel within that segment, and specifically women's tops all carried about the same assortment from hoodies & sweaters, to graphic tees & tanks to trendy bottoms. This comparison is demonstrated in figures 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.



Figure 3.1: Urban Outfitters Merchandise Classification Structure



Figure 3.2: American Eagle Outfitters Merchandise Classification Structur



Figure 3.3: Abercrombie & Fitch Merchandise Classification Structure

#### **SWOT Analysis**

| Weaknesses   |
|--|
| Lack of product forecasting leading to higher rate of<br>missed opportunities compared to its alternate      |
| competitors (Urban Outfitters SWOT Analysis Matrix,  |
| 2018)Example would be A&F creating a children's line first (WGSN, 2018).                                     |
| 3. The company has had many cases of controversy   |
| and offensive content within their garments and<br>varying products, with these cases going viral mostly     |
| on social media (The Week, 2015).  |
|  |
| Threats  |
| 1. Overall decrease in in-store consumer   |
| shopping/alternate option for customers to partake in Omni channel retailing (Big Commerce, 2018).           |
|  |
| 2. Intense competition – Raised profits in the fashion   |
| industry has increased the number of competitors in  |
| the last few years which puts pressure on overall sales<br>for multiple fashion marketers. (Urban Outfitters |
|  |
|  |

Figure 4.1: Urban Outfitters S.W.O.T. Analysis

Although Urban Outfitters has missed the mark on some product forecasting, they have a huge opportunity to open up a children's clothing line to stay head to head with their main competitor, Abercrombie & Fitch. With an increase in disposable income and the fact that the company made it through the recession of brick-and-mortar store shopping, this is a great time to get back in the game with a new unisex children's line that embraces cultural subversion of gender norms.

# Line Development

#### **Proposal**

The missed opportunity for a children's line is an absence to be filled which will speak to parents and children who do not want to be confined to specific styles or colors (Garrod, 2018). Abercrombie's unisex merchandise can be found in unisex sizes and are focused in the center of their brick-and-mortar stores.

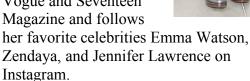
Clothing is just the first step in implementing this non-confined social strategy. Multiple retailers are filling the gap in their product whether it be toys, signage, or department décor. Today's parents are a bit savvier, says Tran, the concept developer behind another brand implementing this strategy. The understanding of practicality and investing in pieces that can be easily passed through different siblings of different genders is what is going to make this market a success (Hype Kids, 2018).

#### **Target Customer**

The wearer of this line is going to be Chloe, an 11-year-old girl. She aspires to be an artist and has an active lifestyle outside of school where she is always on the go. Because of this, she needs something to throw on; Chloe cannot spend half an hour trying to match tops and bottoms in the morning, actually she thinks it is more fun to mix and match prints. In the comfort of her parent's higher middle-class home she resides in Salem, Oregon. She picks whatever is bright and exciting, the first thing she sees when she stops in a store on the weekends or after soccer practice, with mom and dad. They usually go to the River City Mall about 3-4 times a month.

Per visit, her parents normally will spend between \$85-\$150 unless it is time to go back to school then that budget will increase. Other places they will shop for back to school clothes is Abercrombie & Fitch Kids, Justice, and Old Navy.

Chloe enjoys reading her monthly subscriptions to Teen Vogue and Seventeen Magazine and follows





#### **Trend Analysis**

For the upcoming A/W 2018-line Urban Outfitters will continue to stay with their current merchandise selections but will expand the line with the children's wear collection that will portray fun, graphic prints and linear scribble detailing, mixed textiles and athletic silhouettes (Rechner & Goodfellow Ash, 2016). This line is unique and unexpected, but versatile enough to wear to multiple events from after school tutoring to birthday parties.

Winter 2018 is full of gender neutral silhouettes and durable fabrics. Multiple combinations will be seen anywhere from hoodies with multi patch joggers to utility style jumpsuits. These looks can be altered with the way they are styled to appear more feminine or masculine depending how they are paired and styled on the body (Garrod, 2017).



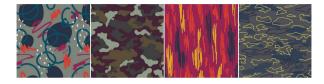
Moto jackets, cropped sweaters, relaxed trousers, and knit overalls are all trending in Winter 2018 and are expected to be found in both girl's and boy's versatile wardrobes this coming season (Rechner, 2015).

Colorful winter hues and textiles create a fresh street style for kids, inspired by the outdoors (Doneger, n.d., 2018). The idea of minimal-maximal highlights extremes with features of head-to-toe prints along with monochrome outfits (Rechner & Goodfellow-Ash, 2016).

## **Color Story**



## **Print Story**



This collection looks to abstract patterning in order to refresh commercial children's wear pieces, with scribbled lines and camo hybrids (Rechner, 2016). The prints incorporate both core colors and the fashion shades from the color story chosen. Abstract camo updates children's wear with brush strokes, cutout shapes, and layering

techniques, which make for more abstract interpretations (Wharton, 2017). This trend is implemented on sweatshirts, windbreakers, and jacket linings (Rechner, 2016).

## **Fabric Story**

| Swatch | Fabric Name          | Fiber Content             | Suitability              | Special Care   | Vendor     | Wholesale PPY |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------|---------------|
|        | Polyester            | 100%<br>Polyester         | Coats,<br>Outerwear      | Machine<br>wash cold,<br>Tumble try<br>low                 | Fabric.com | \$4.98/Yard   |
|        | Polyester            | 100%<br>Polyester         | Coats,<br>Outerwear      | Machine<br>wash cold,<br>Tumble try<br>low                 | Fabric.com | \$4.98/Yard   |
|        | Polyester            | 100%<br>Polyester         | Coats,<br>Outerwear      | Machine<br>wash cold,<br>Tumble try<br>low                 | Fabric.com | \$4.98/Yard   |
|        | Cotton               | 100% Cotton               | T-shirts,<br>Sweatshirts | Wash cold on<br>gentle, Air<br>dry                         | Fabric.com | \$5.69/Yard   |
|        | Rayon Jersey<br>Knit | 95% Rayon,<br>5% Spandex  | T-shirt                  | Machine<br>wash cold,<br>Tumble try<br>low                 | Fabric.com | \$11.99/Yard  |
|        | Cotton<br>Denim      | 98% Denim,<br>2% Elastane | Jeans,<br>Joggers        | Wash inside<br>out on cold<br>with like<br>colors, Air dry | Fabric.com | \$9.56/Yard   |
|        | Cotton<br>Denim      | 98% Denim,<br>2% Elastane | Jeans,<br>Joggers        | Wash inside<br>out on cold<br>with like<br>colors, Air dry | Fabric.com | \$9.56/Yard   |
|        | Cotton<br>Denim      | 98% Denim,<br>2% Elastane | Jeans,<br>Joggers        | Wash inside<br>out on cold<br>with like<br>colors, Air dry | Fabric.com | \$9.56/Yard   |
|        | Polar Fleece         | 100%<br>Polyester         | Cold weather suit        | Machine<br>wash cold on<br>gentle, Air try                 | Fabric.com | \$4.96/Yard   |

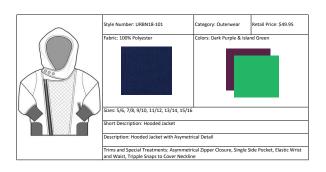
## **Concept Board**

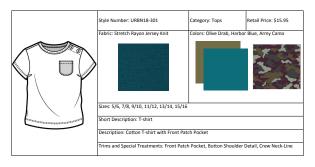


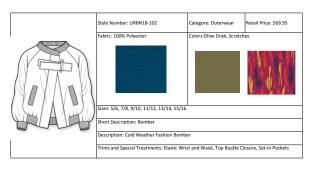
The "Great Outdoors" is the main inspiration for this clothing line. It is a combination of raw, rustic, and primitive elements, as Doneger put it. The line has sporty and protective references with sustainability as the key (Doneger, n.d., 2018).

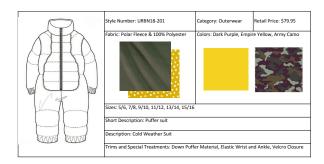
## Line Plan/Style Sheets

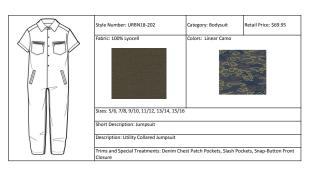
The Autumn/Winter 2018 unisex children's collection features 2 Tops, 3 Outerwear garments, 3 Bottoms, and 2 Bodysuits.

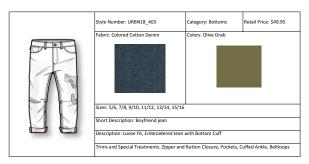


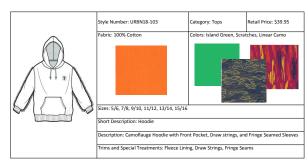


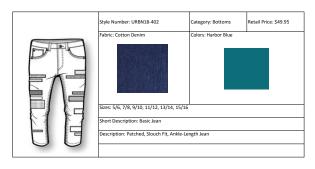


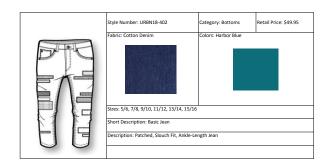


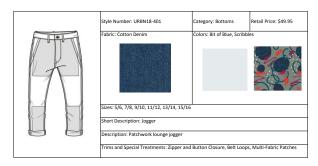


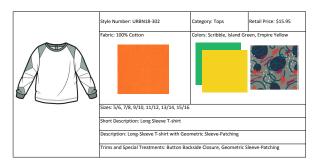












## **Key Items**

The following five garments are highlighted as key items for the A/W 2018 children's line, *Great Outdoors*. The jogger pant, bomber jacket, hooded sweatshirt, long sleeve t-shirt, and utility jumpsuit are interchangeable and ready-to-go items for his or her daily activity. The sustainability of the fabrics and garment construction will be durable for a child's fast pace lifestyle.



## Merchandising Plan

## **Fabric Quick Costing**

The following table shows the breakdown for the costs of all fabrics with the given yardage that will be needed to produce both the outer layer of the garment and linings as needed. As the table shows, all garments will be able to be sold at their initial retail price that is listed in the style sheets.

| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| URBN18-101   | \$49.95     | \$19.98   | \$12.00            | 1 yds. @ \$4.98   | Outer: \$4.98     |
|              |             |           |                    | .5 yds @ \$4.98   | Lining: \$2.49    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$7.47     |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
| URBN18-301   | \$15.95     | \$6.38    | \$12.00            | 1 yds. @ \$11.99  | Outer: \$11.99    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Lining: \$0.00    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$11.99    |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
| URBN18-102   | \$69.95     | \$27.98   | \$16.79            | 1 yds. @ \$4.98   | Outer: \$4.98     |
|              |             |           |                    | .5 yds. @ \$4.98  | Lining: \$2.49    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$7.47     |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
| URBN18-201   | \$79.95     | \$31.98   | \$33.00            | 3 vds. @ \$4.98   | Outer: \$14.94    |
|              |             |           |                    | 1.5 yds. @ \$4.96 | Lining: \$7.44    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$22,38    |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
| URBN18-202   | \$69.95     | \$27.98   | \$30.00            | 3 vds. @ \$9.98   | Outer: \$29.94    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Lining: \$0.00    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$29.94    |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Ouick Cost |
| URBN18-302   | \$15.95     | \$6.38    | \$7.00             | 1 vds. @ \$5.69   | Outer: \$5.69     |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Lining: \$0.00    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$5.69     |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
| URBN18-401   | \$49.95     | \$19.98   | \$22.00            | 2 vds. @ \$9.56   | Outer: \$19.12    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Lining: \$0.00    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$19.12    |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
| URBN18-402   | \$49.95     | \$19.98   | \$22.00            | 2 yds. @ \$9.56   | Outer: \$19.12    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Lining: \$0.00    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$19.12    |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
| URBN18-403   | \$49.95     | \$19.98   | \$22.00            | 2 yds. @ \$9.56   | Outer: \$19.12    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Lining: \$0.00    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$19.12    |
| Style Number | Unit Retail | Unit Cost | Target Fabric Cost | Required Yardage  | Fabric Quick Cost |
| URBN18-103   | \$39.95     | \$15.98   | \$9.59             | 1 yds. @ \$5.69   | Outer: \$5.69     |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Lining: \$0.00    |
|              |             |           |                    |                   | Total: \$5,69     |

## **Six Month Merchandising Plan**

|               |                           | August   | Septmeber | October  | November | December | January  | SEASON<br>TOTAL |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
|               | Last Year %               | 17%      | 17%       | 15%      | 18%      | 25%      | 8%       | 1009            |
| PLANNED SALES | LY \$\$                   |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| \$            | Plan                      | \$10,965 | \$10,965  | \$9,675  | \$11,610 | \$16,125 | \$5,160  | \$64,500        |
|               | Percent of Increase       |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Revised                   |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Actual                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| RETAIL STOCK  | Last Year                 |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| (BOM)         | Plan                      | \$33,992 | \$27,413  | \$22,253 | \$23,220 | \$32,250 | \$18,060 | \$157,187       |
| \$            | Percent of Increase       |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Revised                   |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Actual                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| MARKDOWNS     | Last Year                 |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Plan (dollar)             | \$219    | \$219     | \$194    | \$232    | \$323    | \$103    | \$1,291         |
| \$            | Plan (%)                  | 2%       | 2%        | 2%       | 2%       | 2%       | 2%       | 29              |
|               | Percent of Increase       |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Revised                   |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Actual                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| RETAIL        | Last Year                 |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| PURCHASES     | Plan                      | \$4,605  | \$6,024   | \$10,836 | \$20,872 | \$2,258  | \$12,203 | \$56,799        |
| \$            | Percent of Increase       |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Revised                   |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Actual                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| COSTOF GOODS  | Last Year                 |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| MARKUPS       | Plan                      | \$1,842  | \$2,410   | \$4,334  | \$8,349  | \$903    | \$4,881  | \$22,711        |
| \$            | Percent of Initial Markup | 60%      | 60%       | 60%      | 60%      | 60%      | 60%      | 603             |
|               | Revised                   |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Actual                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| ENDING        | Last Year                 |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| STOCK         | Plan                      | \$27,413 | \$22,253  | \$23,220 | \$32,250 | \$18,060 | \$25,000 |                 |
| (EOM)         | Percent of Increase       |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
| 31-Jul        | Revised                   |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Actual                    |          |           |          |          |          |          |                 |
|               | Stock-Sales Ratio         | 3.1      | 2.5       | 2.3      | 2.0      | 2.0      | 3.5      | 2.4             |

The Retail Planned Purchases for the month of November for Urban Outfitter Autumn/Winter 18 collection is \$20,872.00.

## <u>Merchandising Plan Calculations for</u> November

Planned Sales \$

Monthly Planned Sales (\$) = Last Year's Monthly Planned Sales %\*Season Total

- Planned Sales \$ for November.... (18%)\*(\$64,500.00) = \$11,610

Retail Stock (BOM)

Retail Stock (BOM) = Stock-to-Sales Ratio for Month\* Monthly Planned Sales

- Retail Stock (BOM) for November... (2.0) \*(\$11,610.00) = \$23,220.00

Markdown \$

Markdown \$ = Markdown %\* Monthly Planned Sales

- Markdown \$ for November... (2.0%)\* (\$11,610.00) = \$232.20

Planned Retail Purchases
Planned Retail Purchases = Planned Sales
\$ + Markdown \$ + EOM - BOM
Planned Retail Purchases for November...
(\$11,610.00) + (\$232.20) + (\$32,250.00) - (\$23,220.00) = \$20,872

Cost of Goods Sold Percentage of initial markup = 60%

Cost of Goods Sold = Planned Retail Purchases \* (100%- initial markup percentage) Percentage of Initial Markups for November... (\$20,872) \* (100%-60%) = \$8,349

Ending Stock (EOM)
Ending Stock (EOM) = \$ Retail Stock
(BOM) of the Next Month Ending Stock
(EOM) for November... \$32,250.00 (BOM for December)

Total Stock-to-Sales Ratio
Total Stock-to-Sales Ratio = Value of Stock
(BOM)/Total Sales
Total Stock-to-Sales Ratio for November...
(\$157,187.00)/ (\$64,500.00) = 2.4

#### **Ratio Distribution**

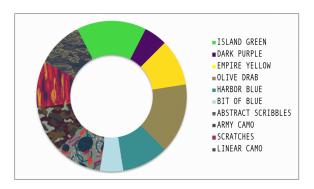
The following tables display the distributions for all of the sizes, styles, colors, and patterns for the *Great Outdoors* Autumn/Winter 2018 children's line.

| Class # | Class     | Percentage<br>of Units<br>Purchased | Estimated \$ Amount of<br>Purchases |
|---------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1       | Outerwear | 12%                                 | \$9,350.90                          |
| 2       | Bodysuit  | 23%                                 | \$4,237.20                          |
| 3       | Tops      | 45%                                 | \$2,488.20                          |
| 4       | Bottoms   | 25%                                 | \$4,795.20                          |

The ratios presented in the style distribution are based off of the current ratios that are presented in the Abercrombie children's line. Their competition, Abercrombie, display similar pieces for their new gender-neutral children's line (WGSN, 2018).

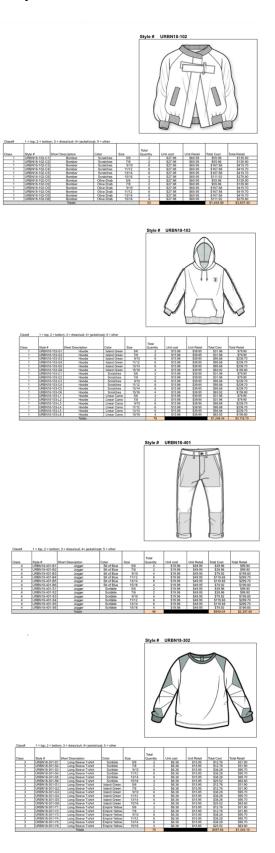
| Numerical Size Distribution |     |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|
| Size Percentage             |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5/6                         | 5%  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7/8                         | 15% |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9/10                        | 25% |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11/12 25%                   |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13/14 15%                   |     |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15/16 15%                   |     |  |  |  |  |  |

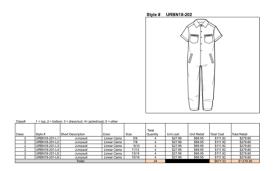
The size distribution chosen was also based on Abercrombie's children's sizing which ranges from a size 5/6 to a size 15/16 (Abercrombie 2018). Because of the rapid increase in overweight children the majority of sizes will be ordered in sized 7/8 to 15/16. These should be the sizes needed for the majority of the target market (Morley, 2017).



Prints and fabrics were researched on WGSN but inspired by trends on Doneger. Colors and prints not only need to appeal to the boys and girls but also to their parents, whom are the purchasers. The colors that were chosen create a whimsical contrast. which are perfect when gearing towards the youth. Colorful winter hues and textiles create a fresh street style, inspired by the outdoors (Doneger, n.d.). Abstract camo updates children's wear with brush strokes. cutout shapes, and layering techniques, which make for more abstract interpretations (Wharton, 2017). Olive Drab will be a dominant neutral pantone seen as well as Island Green for a vibrant pop.

## **Key Items Assortment Plans**





## **Purchase Order**

The table below displays the final purchase order and includes all costs of this line. The purchase order meets the budget of planned retail sales for the month of November, which is \$20,872.00. The total retail cost leaves an excess of only 50 cents for the budget of November.

| I | Class  | Style #    | Description         | Total Quantity | Unit Cost | Unit Retail | Total Cost | Total Retail | Total Retail per Classification |
|---|--------|------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| I | 1      | URBN18-101 | Hoodie              | 52             | \$19.98   | \$49.95     | \$1,039    | \$2,597      | Class 1: \$9,350                |
| I | 3      | URBN18-301 | T-shirt             | 78             | \$6.38    | \$15.95     | \$498      | \$1,244      | Class 2: \$4,237                |
| 1 | 1      | URBN18-102 | Bomber              | 52             | \$27.98   | \$69.95     | \$1,455    | \$3,637      | Class 3: \$2,488                |
| Ī | 2      | URBN18-201 | Puffer Suit         | 32             | \$31.98   | \$79.95     | \$1,023    | \$2,558      | Class 4: \$4,795                |
| I | 2      | URBN18-202 | Jumpsuit            | 24             | \$27.98   | \$69.95     | \$672      | \$1,679      |                                 |
| I | 3      | URBN18-302 | Long Sleeve T-shirt | 78             | \$6.38    | \$15.95     | \$498      | \$1,244      |                                 |
| Ī | 4      | URBN18-401 | Jogger              | 48             | \$19.98   | \$49.95     | \$959      | \$2,398      |                                 |
| I | 4      | URBN18-402 | Basic Jean          | 24             | \$19.98   | \$49.95     | \$480      | \$1,199      |                                 |
| I | 4      | URBN18-403 | Boyfriend Jean      | 24             | \$19.98   | \$49.95     | \$480      | \$1,199      |                                 |
| I | 1      | URBN18-103 | Hoodie              | 78             | \$15.98   | \$39.95     | \$1,246    | \$3,116      |                                 |
| I |        |            |                     |                |           |             |            |              |                                 |
| I | Totals |            |                     | 490            |           |             | \$8,349    | \$20,872     | \$20,872                        |
|   |        |            |                     |                |           |             |            |              |                                 |

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