

UNIFIRST CORP

Form 11-K

June 30, 2008

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

## **FORM 11-K**

(Check One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007**

**or**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number 1-8504**

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

### **UniFirst Corporation Profit Sharing Plan**

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**UniFirst Corporation**

**68 Jonspin Road**

**Wilmington, MA 01887**

**UNIFIRST CORPORATION PROFIT SHARING PLAN**

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**Note:** Other supplemental schedules required by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act that have not been included herein are not applicable to the UniFirst Corporation Profit Sharing Plan.

**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

To the Participants and Administrator of the

UniFirst Corporation Profit Sharing Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of UniFirst Corporation Profit Sharing Plan (the Plan) as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2007 and 2006, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental Schedule of Assets Held for Investment as of December 31, 2007 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Sullivan Bille, P.C.

June 23, 2008

**UNIFIRST CORPORATION PROFIT SHARING PLAN**  
**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

	2007	2006
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Investments (at fair value):		
Common stock, common/collective trusts and mutual funds	\$ 166,624,498	\$152,276,938
Participant loans	7,089,651	6,768,117
Cash fund	25,127	637,948
Total investments	173,739,276	159,683,003
Receivables:		
Employer contribution	4,400,000	4,000,000
Other	52,205	26,580
Total receivables	4,452,205	4,026,580
Total assets	178,191,481	163,709,583
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Accounts payable	6,535	8,672
Accrued expenses	2,000	2,640
Total liabilities	8,535	11,312
Net assets reflecting all investments at fair value	178,182,946	163,698,271
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	230,010	442,971
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 178,412,956</b>	<b>\$164,141,242</b>
See notes to financial statements.		

**UNIFIRST CORPORATION PROFIT SHARING PLAN**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006**

	2007	2006
<b>ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Investment activities:		
Net (depreciation) appreciation in value of investments	\$ (4,761,744)	\$ 5,706,381
Dividends	13,729,007	10,821,380
Interest	579,195	471,451
Other	2,057	56,502
Net investment activities	9,548,515	17,055,714
Contributions:		
Participants	8,724,244	8,129,082
Employer match	4,807,417	4,390,090
Employer discretionary	4,400,000	4,000,000
Total contributions	17,931,661	16,519,172
Total additions	27,480,176	33,574,886
<b>DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Benefits paid to participants	13,154,086	12,205,393
Administrative expenses	54,376	52,620
Total deductions	13,208,462	12,258,013
<b>NET INCREASE</b>	<b>14,271,714</b>	<b>21,316,873</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:</b>		
Beginning of year	164,141,242	142,824,369
End of year	\$178,412,956	\$164,141,242
See notes to financial statements.		

**UNIFIRST CORPORATION PROFIT SHARING PLAN**

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2007 AND 2006

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**1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN**

The following description of the UniFirst Corporation Profit Sharing Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan established by UniFirst Corporation (the "Company") for the benefit of its eligible employees employed by UniFirst Corporation, UniFirst Holdings, Inc., UniTech Services Group, Inc. and UniFirst First-Aid Corporation. Under a trust agreement, Merrill Lynch serves as the Institutional Directed Trustee of the Plan and two employees appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company serve as Administrative Trustees. The Company is the plan administrator. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

Under the terms of the Plan, the participants select how the funds in their account are invested from the following offerings:

Common stock:

UniFirst Corporation

Common/collective trusts:

Merrill Lynch Retirement Preservation Trust

Merrill Lynch Equity Index Trust (Tier 12)

Mutual funds:

BlackRock Basic Value Fund (Class I)  
BlackRock Global Allocation Fund (Class I)  
BlackRock Government Income Portfolio Fund (Class I)  
BlackRock Value Opportunities Fund (Class I)  
Hotchkis & Wiley Small Cap Value Fund (Class I)  
T.Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund (Advisor Class)  
PIMCO Total Return Fund (Administrative Class)  
Templeton Foreign Fund (Advisor Class)  
American EuroPacific Growth Fund (Class R4)  
BlackRock Small/Mid-cap Growth Fund (Class I)  
Davis New York Venture Fund (Class Y)



**1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN** (Continued)

The Plan also offers three GoalManager Model Portfolios. GoalManager Model Portfolios combine select investment options from the available investment options in the Plan. Each Portfolio has its own objective and investment mix that takes into account individual retirement goals and risks. The following is the breakdown of the funds that make up the respective GoalManager Model Portfolios:

	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Aggressive</u>
Merrill Lynch Retirement Preservation Trust	30%	10%	
BlackRock Government Income Portfolio Fund (Class I)	25%	14%	
PIMCO Total Return Fund (Administrative Class)	25%	16%	5%
BlackRock Basic Value Fund (Class I)	6%	16%	20%
T.Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund (Advisor Class)	4%	14%	25%
BlackRock Small/Mid-cap Growth Fund (Class I)		6%	12%
Hotchkis & Wiley Small Cap Value Fund (Class I)	5%	9%	13%
Templeton Foreign Fund (Advisor Class)	3%	8%	14%
American EuroPacific Growth Fund (Class R4)	<u>2%</u>	<u>7%</u>	<u>11%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

A participant may elect to invest in only one GoalManager Model Portfolio and any other active accounts, and may change such investment election on a daily basis.

Contributions

The Company provides for a matching contribution on the first 5% of compensation an employee elects to contribute. The Company matches 100% of the employee's first 3% of eligible compensation deferred and then 50% of the next 2% of eligible compensation deferred.

The Company may elect to contribute to the Plan, on behalf of each eligible participant, a discretionary profit sharing contribution determined annually by the Board of Directors of the Company. For the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, the Company made a discretionary profit sharing contribution of \$4,400,000 and \$4,000,000, respectively.

Participation



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The Plan includes all employees of non-bargaining units of the Company and eligible subsidiaries, who have completed 90 consecutive days of employment. Eligible employees may elect to contribute through a compensation reduction feature subject to limitations established by the Internal Revenue Code.

The Plan permits catch-up contributions for eligible participants who are 50 years or older by the end of the calendar year and who are currently making deferral contributions.

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**1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN** (Continued)

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with (a) the participant's elective deferral contribution (b) an allocation of the individual employer matching and/or profit sharing contribution (c) forfeitures and (d) plan earnings based on the participant's account balances.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their elective deferral contributions, rollover contributions and employer matching contributions, plus investment earnings thereon.

Effective January 1, 2007, the vesting rules for the discretionary profit sharing contribution were amended. A participant is 100% vested after three years of service for allocations for 2007 and later plan years. For allocations for 2006 and prior years, a participant is 100% vested after five years of service. In the event of death, retirement or permanent disability, participants become 100% vested in all account balances.

Forfeitures

Upon termination, participant accounts which are less than 100% vested are forfeited. Forfeitures are allocated to eligible participants as if they were employer profit sharing contributions and are restored to participants in the event a terminated employee is rehired within a five year period.

At December 31, 2007 and 2006, forfeited non-vested accounts were \$600,618 and \$544,429, respectively. These accounts will be allocated to participants in the future. Forfeitures allocated to participants during the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 were \$544,706 and \$590,603, respectively.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are payable to eligible participants upon disability, death, retirement or termination of employment.

Benefit payments may be made in a lump sum distribution equal to their vested account balance, a life annuity subject to joint survivor annuity rules, or an installment payout subject to certain Plan provisions. Payments must commence no later than the attainment of age 70-1/2.

Loans

Participants may borrow up to the lesser of (a) 50% of their vested account balance (b) \$50,000 reduced by the greatest outstanding loan balance within the previous 12 months or (c) the amount of loan which the Trustees determine can be reasonably paid from the participants' wages. The Plan permits a maximum of 2 loans at one time. Loans are due over a minimum of 1 year and maximum of 4 1/2 years.

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**1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN** (Continued)

Administrative Expenses

Individual participant accounts are directly charged by Merrill Lynch for the processing of participant loans, expediting fees and redemption fees for certain short-term trading infractions. Investment fund management fees are also charged and reduce participant investment return. The Company bears all other plan expenses.

Plan Amendment and Termination

The Plan may be amended at any time by the Company without the signature of the Trustees, and by the Plan Administrator to comply with the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA, provided that no such amendment may deprive participants of their vested benefits.

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of termination of the Plan, the participant accounts would become fully vested and the assets would be distributed to participants in accordance with the terms set forth in the Plan.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

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The Plan's investments in mutual funds are stated at fair value. Shares of mutual funds are valued at the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year end. Unrealized appreciation or depreciation resulting from market changes is added to, or subtracted from, net assets.

The Plan's investments in UniFirst Corporation common stock are stated at market. Market being the last reported sales price on the last business day of the Plan year as reported on the New York Stock Exchange. Unrealized appreciation or depreciation resulting from market changes is added to, or subtracted from, net assets.

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**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (Continued)

As described in Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Staff Position, FSP AAG INV-1 and Statement of Position No. 94-4-1, *Reporting of Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts Held by Certain Investment Companies Subject to the AICPA Investment Company Guide and Defined-Contribution Health and Welfare and Pension Plans* (the FSP), investment contracts held by a defined-contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, contract value is the relevant measurement attributable for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined-contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would received if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the plan. As required by the FSP, the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits presents the fair value of the investment contracts as well as the adjustment of the fully benefit-responsive investment contracts from fair value to contract value. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits is prepared on a contract value basis.

The Plan's investments in common/collective trusts are stated at fair value and adjusted to contract value, which is equal to cost plus accrued interest because these investments have fully benefit-responsive features. The fair value of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts is calculated by using the sum of the present value of all projected future cash flows. The discount rate used is provided by other similar maturity investment contracts at year-end. Investment in the non benefit-responsive investment contracts are valued based upon the quoted redemption value of units owned by the Plan at year end. Unrealized appreciation or depreciation resulting from market value changes is added to, or subtracted from, net assets.

Participant loans are valued at their outstanding balances, which approximates fair value.

Cash fund is stated at fair value, and consists of any contributions received by the Plan but not allocated, or the value of any distributions payable from the trust.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest is recorded on the accrual basis as earned. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various securities including mutual funds, common/collective trusts and UniFirst Corporation common stock. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate and credit risks and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes would materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Benefit Payments

Benefit payments are recorded when paid.



**3. INVESTMENTS**

Investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets at December 31, 2007 and 2006 are as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Investments at contract value (Note 2) - Merrill Lynch		
Retirement Preservation Trust	\$25,056,949	\$23,766,552
Investments at fair value:		
BlackRock Basic Value Fund	29,400,730	28,158,310
BlackRock Global Allocation Fund	19,920,441	17,059,111
BlackRock Government Income Portfolio Fund	15,038,718	14,278,722
BlackRock Value Opportunities Fund	10,878,808	11,802,097
T.Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund	12,211,189	10,214,979
PIMCO Total Return Fund	10,659,626	9,698,231
Hotchkis & Wiley Small Cap Value Fund (2006 only)	6,609,614	8,585,315

During the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year) (depreciated) appreciated in value, as follows:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
UniFirst Corporation common stock	\$ (11,076)	\$1,215,169
Common/collective trusts	135,955	283,593
Mutual funds	<u>(4,886,623)</u>	<u>4,207,619</u>
Net (depreciation) appreciation in value of investments	<u>\$(4,761,744)</u>	<u>\$5,706,381</u>

**4. INCOME TAX STATUS**

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) dated May 20, 2003, stating that the Plan is qualified in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Internal Revenue Code to maintain its qualifications. Subsequent to this determination letter by the IRS, the Plan was amended. The Plan Administrator believes that the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code and, therefore, believes that the Plan is qualified.

**5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS**



Transactions in shares of UniFirst Corporation common stock qualify as party-in-interest transactions under the provisions of ERISA for which a statutory exemption exists. During the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, the Plan made purchases of approximately \$4.7 million and \$2.2 million, and sales of approximately \$2.7 million and \$2 million, respectively, of UniFirst Corporation common stock. At December 31, 2007 and 2006, the Plan held 218,065 shares and 163,438 shares of UniFirst Corporation common stock representing 4.6% and 3.8% of the total net assets of the Plan, respectively.

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**5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS** (Continued)

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by Merrill Lynch, the Trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Fees paid by the Plan to Merrill Lynch during the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 were and \$54,376 and \$52,620, respectively.

**6. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500**

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the accompanying financial statements at December 31, 2007 and 2006 to the Form 5500:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$178,412,956	\$164,141,242
Less:		
Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants		(637,846)
Adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	<u>(230,010)</u>	<u>(442,971)</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	<u>\$178,182,946</u>	<u>\$163,060,425</u>

The following is a reconciliation of total additions per the accompanying financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, to the Form 5500:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Total additions per the financial statements	\$27,480,176	\$33,574,886
Add prior year adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	442,971	
Less current year adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	<u>(230,010)</u>	<u>(442,971)</u>
Total additions per the Form 5500	<u>\$27,693,137</u>	<u>\$33,131,915</u>

The following is a reconciliation of benefits paid to participants per the accompanying financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006, to the Form 5500:

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Benefits paid to participants per the financial statements	\$13,154,086	\$12,205,393

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Add benefit obligations payable at end of year		637,846
Less benefit obligations payable at beginning of year	<u>(637,846)</u>	<u>                    </u>
Benefits paid to participants per the Form 5500	<u>\$12,516,240</u>	<u>\$12,843,239</u>

**UNIFIRST CORPORATION PROFIT SHARING PLAN**  
**SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2007**

IDENTITY OF ISSUER/BORROWER	DESCRIPTION OF INVESTMENT INCLUDING INTEREST RATES	CURRENT VALUE	
* Merrill Lynch Retirement Preservation Trust	Common/Collective Trust - Fully Benefit-Responsive	\$ 24,826,939	a
* Merrill Lynch Equity Index Trust (Tier 12)	Common/Collective Trust - Non Benefit-Responsive	2,599,541	
* UniFirst Corporation	Common Stock	8,286,476	
T.Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund (Advisor Class)	Mutual Fund	12,211,189	
* BlackRock Basic Value Fund (Class I)	Mutual Fund	29,400,730	
* BlackRock Global Allocation Fund (Class I)	Mutual Fund	19,920,441	
* BlackRock Government Income Portfolio Fund (Class I)	Mutual Fund	15,038,718	
* BlackRock Value Opportunities Fund (Class I)	Mutual Fund	10,878,808	
Hotchkis & Wiley Small Cap Value Fund (Class I)	Mutual Fund	6,609,614	
PIMCO Total Return Fund (Administrative Class)	Mutual Fund	10,659,626	
Templeton Foreign Fund (Advisor Class)	Mutual Fund	7,652,867	
American EuroPacific Growth Fund (Class R4)	Mutual Fund	8,650,414	
* BlackRock Small/Mid-cap Growth Fund (Class I)	Mutual Fund	5,022,986	
Davis New York Venture Fund (Class Y)	Mutual Fund	4,866,149	
	Subtotal	166,624,498	
Participant Loans	5.5% - 11.0%	7,089,651	
Cash Fund	Cash Account	25,127	
	Total	\$ 173,739,276	
* <i>Represents a party-in-interest</i>			
a <i>Contract value equals \$25,056,949</i>			

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Trustees of the UniFirst Corporation Profit Sharing Plan have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

UNIFIRST CORPORATION PROFIT SHARING PLAN

Date: June 27, 2008

By: /s/ RONALD D. CROATTI  
Ronald D. Croatti, Trustee

By: /s/ JOHN B. BARTLETT  
John B. Bartlett, Trustee

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