



News, Sports, Politics, Editorials . . . from The Roanoke Times
 ● PAST 7 DAYS ● ARCHIVES ● NEWS TIPS ● SUBSCRIBE ● ADVERTISE ● CONTACT US



Friday, November 21, 2003

Former Advance CEO cashes in on stock's price

This month, Nicholas Taubman sold at least 240,000 shares, about 17 percent of his holdings as of March, for more than \$19 million.

By [Jenny Kincaid](#)

jenny.kincaid@roanoke.com

981-3340



[Archives](#)



[Reprint](#)



[E-mail this article](#)

News

Front Page
 Roanoke Valley
 New River Valley
vt.roanoke.com
 AP News
 Editorial
 Neighbors
 Celebrations
 Photo/Multimedia
 Politics
 Road Watch
 Special Reports
 Corrections
 Our Ethics

Sports

Entertainment

Columnists

Outdoors

Business

Obituaries

Community

Travel

Health

Classified

Dining Guide

Yellow Pages

jobs.roanoke.com

Search

Advanced search

[A to Z Directory](#)
[Advertise Online](#)
[Archives](#)
[Celebrations](#)
[Coupons](#)
[Crosswords](#)
[Editorials](#)
[Events Calendar](#)
[Home Delivery](#)
[History](#)
[Lottery](#)
[Maps](#)
[Message boards](#)
[Mortgages](#)
[Newspaper in Education](#)
[Personal ads](#)

A former chief executive officer and chairman of Advance Auto Parts cashed in thousands of his shares of the company's stock in November, a sale worth more than \$19 million.

Documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission show that former CEO Nicholas Taubman sold at least 240,000 shares, about 17 percent of his holdings as of March, in the Roanoke-based retailer of automotive parts.

Taubman said he sold the stock to diversify his personal portfolio. His timing could not have been better from a seller's perspective.

The SEC records show most of Taubman's November sales occurred after the stock price hit an all-time high of \$80. Taubman owned 3.9 percent of the company's common stock in March, according to the Advance Auto proxy statement.

Taubman stepped down as chairman of the board in February and is no longer affiliated with Advance Auto. Taubman said the decision to sell is not an indication that he has any concerns about the company his father founded in 1932.

"I have confidence in the company and its future," he said.

Taubman is not the only Advance Auto executive to cash in lately.

[Photo Gallery](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[Shopping](#)
[Smith Mt. Lake](#)
[Stocks](#)
[Subscriptions](#)
[Weather](#)



Since August, Jeffrey Gray, chief financial officer; Paul Klasing, executive vice president; and Peter Fontaine, former director, have sold more than 300,000 shares, according to SEC filings.

"The majority of their wealth is invested in Advance," company spokeswoman Sheila Stuewe said.

She said they sold stock for diversification purposes.

On Wednesday, FS Equity Partners, an investment fund controlled by Freeman Spogli & Co., also sold 1.5 million shares of Advance Auto common stock.

The investment fund still owns about 1.8 million shares, approximately 5 percent of Advance Auto outstanding stock.

Advance Auto had 36.9 million common shares outstanding in October. The company also earlier announced a two-for-one stock split, which will be distributed Jan. 2 for shareholders on record as of Dec. 11.

Aside from efforts to diversify an individual portfolio, company executives may sell stock if they believe the company's future looks poor, said Raman Kumar, a finance professor at Virginia Tech.

Bret Jordan, an analyst with Advest Inc., said he's seen a rush for company insiders to sell stock in several automobile-related companies lately. In October, ESL Investments sold 5.6 million shares of AutoZone, the automobile-parts industry's largest company and the archrival of Advance Auto.

Jordan added that a high stock price is generally an indicator of a company's positive performance.

"Stock price reflects how well the business is working," he said. "If the company is not strong, the stock price will not go up."

Shares of Advance Auto have been climbing steadily in the past months. They've climbed from \$38.90 on Feb. 20 to \$77.58 at Thursday's market closing.

Advance, the only Fortune 500 company based in Roanoke, went public in 2001. It currently has more than 2,450 stores in 38 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and has more than 35,000 employees.

[Click here for today's headlines.](#)

[Click here for the past seven day's headlines.](#)

Let any elected or appointed official know what you think and how you

feel by [CLICKING HERE.](#)

[Portfolio Management](#) - www.stockworm.com

Powerful online stock tools enable effective portfolio management

[Trade Stocks And Gain 25%](#) - www.market-gains.com/stocks

-48% quickly. Use strategies with bouncing stocks for weekly profits.

Sponsored Links