

FORTUNE BRANDS INC

Form 11-K

June 29, 2006

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## SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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### FORM 11-K

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(Mark One)

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005

OR

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

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

Commission file number 1-9076

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

### FORTUNE BRANDS HOURLY EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

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

FORTUNE BRANDS, INC.

520 Lake Cook Road

Deerfield, Illinois 60015



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**Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan**

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**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

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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 Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan.

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**Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

To the Corporate Employee Benefits Committee of

Fortune Brands, Inc.

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan ) at December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 of these statements 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, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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 at end of year) 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. This 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/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chicago, Illinois

June 28, 2006

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**Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan**

**Statements of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits**

**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**(dollars in thousands)**

|   | <u>2005</u>      | <u>2004</u>      |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                  |                  |
| Beneficial interest in Fortune Brands, Inc. Savings Plans Master Trust net assets | \$ 92,010        | \$ 75,702        |
| <b>Receivables</b>  |                  |                  |
| Company contributions   | 203              |                  |
| Participant contributions   | 112              | 107              |
|   | <u>315</u>       | <u>107</u>       |
| <b>Total receivables</b>  |                  |                  |
|   | <u>315</u>       | <u>107</u>       |
| <b>Net assets available for plan benefits</b>                                     | <u>\$ 92,325</u> | <u>\$ 75,809</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**Table of Contents****Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan****Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits****Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004****(dollars in thousands)**

|  | <u>2005</u>      | <u>2004</u>      |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Additions</b>   |                  |                  |
| Allocated share of Fortune Brands, Inc. Savings Plans Master Trust investment income | \$ 5,247         | \$ 5,648         |
| Company contributions  | 4,640            | 3,374            |
| Participant contributions  | 9,121            | 7,279            |
| Transfers to the plan (Note 5)   | 7,365            | 21,268           |
|  | <u>26,373</u>    | <u>37,569</u>    |
| <b>Deductions</b>  |                  |                  |
| Benefits paid to participants  | 8,750            | 5,394            |
| Transfers from the plan (Note 5)   | 1,107            | 57               |
|  | <u>9,857</u>     | <u>5,451</u>     |
| Increase in net assets   | 16,516           | 32,118           |
| Net assets available for plan benefits, beginning of year                            | <u>75,809</u>    | <u>43,691</u>    |
| Net assets available for plan benefits, end of year                                  | <u>\$ 92,325</u> | <u>\$ 75,809</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

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**Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**1. Description of Plan**

**General**

The Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) is a defined contribution plan covering certain hourly, non-union employees of certain operating subsidiaries of Fortune Brands, Inc. ( Fortune ) participating in the Plan. MasterBrand Cabinets, Inc. ( MasterBrand ), Omega Cabinets, Ltd. ( Omega ), Capital Cabinets Corporation ( Capital ), Moen Incorporated ( Moen ), Therma-Tru Corp. ( Therma-Tru ), Waterloo Industries, Inc. ( Waterloo ) are the operating subsidiaries that contribute to the Plan and are referred to collectively as the Companies and individually as a Company. During 2005, Fortune divested ACCO World Corporation and its subsidiaries ( ACCO ). Accordingly, ACCO participants became ineligible to continue participation in the Plan. Assets and liabilities attributable to ACCO participants were spun-off and transferred to the ACCO 401(k) Plan. Also during 2005, the portion of the Therma-Tru 401(k) Retirement Savings Plan attributable to hourly employees was merged into this Plan. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ( ERISA ).

The following provides a brief description of the Plan. For a complete description of the Plan, participants should refer to the specific provisions of the Plan document or to the Prospectus/Summary Plan Description, each of which is available from the plan administrator at 520 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, Illinois 60015.

The financial statements present the net assets available for plan benefits as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in net assets available for plan benefits for the years then ended. The assets of the Plan are included in a pool of investments known as the Fortune Brands, Inc. Savings Plans Master Trust (the Master Trust ), along with the assets of the Fortune Brands Retirement Savings Plan and the Future Brands LLC Retirement Savings Plan. The Master Trust investments are administered and held by The Fidelity Management Trust Company (the Trustee ).

**Contributions**

The Plan is a defined contribution plan. Contributions are held by the Trustee and accumulated in separate participant accounts. Participants may make tax deferred contributions under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code ) of up to 50% of eligible compensation. Participants' annual tax deferred contributions are limited by the Code to \$14,000 and \$13,000 in 2005 and 2004, respectively. In addition, during the year in which a participant attains age 50 and in subsequent years, the participant may elect an additional unmatched, pretax catch up contribution which is limited by the Code to \$4,000 in 2005 and \$3,000 in 2004. The Plan also permits each participant to make after-tax contributions to the Plan. However, total pre-tax and after-tax contributions may not exceed 50% of the participant's total eligible compensation. Along with catch-up contributions, the maximum amount a person can contribute to the Plan is 75% of eligible compensation.

Moen and Waterloo each provide its employees with a matching contribution equal to 50% of the participant's contributions up to 6% of eligible compensation. MasterBrand provides its employees with a matching contribution of 40% of the participant's contributions up to 5% of eligible compensation for participants at its Littlestown, Pennsylvania; Crossville, Tennessee; Talladega, Alabama and Kinston, North Carolina locations and participants at its distribution centers. MasterBrand provides its employees with a matching contribution of 50% of the participant's contribution up to 3% of eligible compensation for participants at its Grants Pass, Oregon and Hillsboro, Oregon locations. Additionally, MasterBrand makes an annual profit-sharing contribution in the amount of \$200 for each eligible participant who is employed at the Kinston, North Carolina facility on December 31 of the applicable year.

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### **Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan**

#### **Notes to Financial Statements**

##### **December 31, 2005 and 2004**

The Schrock Cabinet division of MasterBrand ( Schrock ) provides a matching contribution equal to 50% of the participant's contributions up to 5% of eligible compensation and an additional 50% of the participant's contributions up to 3% of eligible compensation. Omega provides a matching contribution to its employees of 50% of the participant's contributions up to 6% of eligible compensation. Capital provides a matching contribution to its employees of 100% of the participant's contributions up to 4% of eligible compensation.

Therma-Tru annually contributes 3% of eligible compensation for all Therma-Tru participants whether or not a participant contributes to the Plan.

Participants may direct the investment of their tax deferred contributions, catch-up contributions, after-tax contributions, matching contributions, profit sharing contributions, if any, and their Plan account balances in the available investment funds.

Participant account balances are maintained to reflect each participant's beneficial interest in the Plan's funds. Participant account balances are increased by participant and Company contributions (including rollovers from other plans) and decreased by the amount of withdrawals and distributions. Income and losses on Plan assets and certain administrative expenses are allocated to participants' accounts based on the ratio of each participant's account balance invested in an investment fund to the total of all participants' account balances invested in that fund as of the preceding valuation date.

#### **Vesting**

Participants are immediately vested in their own contributions plus earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company matching and profit sharing contributions plus earnings thereon occurs after one year of service. Therma-Tru participants are 100% vested in the Therma-Tru profit sharing account at all times.

#### **Forfeitures**

Company contributions forfeited by nonvested terminated participants are retained by the Plan and used to reduce subsequent Company contributions. If a terminated participant returns to the Plan within a specified period of time (generally 5 years), the participant's previously forfeited amount will be reinstated to the participant's account. Total forfeitures for the year ended December 31, 2005 are \$260,000 and \$73,000 for the year ended December 31, 2004.

#### **Loans**

A participant may apply for a loan of at least \$1,000 from the vested portion of the participant's account balance (excluding the portion in certain subaccounts) in an amount which does not exceed one-half of the participant's vested balance, provided that the loan also does not exceed \$50,000. Any loans applied for are also reduced by any other loan outstanding under the Plan within the previous twelve months. The term of any loan shall not exceed five years, unless the loan is related to the purchase of the participant's principal residence. No more than one home residence loan and one loan for any other purpose may be outstanding at any time.

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### **Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan**

#### **Notes to Financial Statements**

##### **December 31, 2005 and 2004**

A new loan may not be applied for until 30 days after any prior loan is repaid in full. Each loan bears a rate of interest equal to the prime rate on the last day of the previous quarter at the time the loan is made, as quoted in the Wall Street Journal. Interest rates on outstanding notes range from 4% to 10.5% at December 31, 2005. Each loan must be collateralized by a portion of the participant's account balance and evidenced by a written obligation payable to the Trustee which is invested in the loan fund. Repayment is made by payroll deduction so that the loan is repaid over the term of the loan in substantially level installments not less frequently than quarterly.

#### **Distributions and Withdrawals**

Benefits are payable from a participant's account under the Plan's provisions, upon a participant's death, retirement or other termination of employment in a lump sum or in installment payments. The Plan also permits withdrawals to be made by participants who have incurred a hardship as defined in the Plan or after the attainment of age 59-1/2.

Distributions and withdrawals to which a participant is entitled are those, subject to certain eligibility and forfeiture provisions, that can be provided by the aggregate of employer and employee contributions and the income thereon (including net realized and unrealized investment gains and losses) allocated to such participant's account. Distributions and withdrawals are recorded when paid.

#### **Plan Termination**

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, each Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and Fortune, as plan sponsor and administrator, may terminate the Plan at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become fully vested in their accounts.

## **2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

### **Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Investment Valuation and Income**

The Master Trust's investments in securities (bonds, debentures, notes and stocks) traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sale price on the last business day of the year; securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued at the last reported bid price; and listed securities for which no sale was reported on that date are valued at the mean between the last reported bid and asked prices. Participations in registered investment companies are stated at the Master Trust's beneficial interest in the aggregate fair value of assets held by the fund, as reported by the fund's manager.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Gains or losses on sales of securities are based on average cost. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Income from other investments is recorded as earned on an accrual basis.

The ratio of the Plan's assets to the fair value of all assets held in each fund in the Master Trust is used to allocate interest income, dividend income, realized gains (losses) and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) in the market value of investments on a monthly basis.

**Table of Contents****Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan****Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2005 and 2004****Operating Expenses**

Certain expenses incurred by the Plan are netted against earnings prior to allocation to participant accounts. These include investment manager, trust and recordkeeper expenses. Other expenses, including audit fees, are paid directly by Fortune Brands.

**Reclassifications**

Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation. The 2004 Statement of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits, as currently presented, includes the Plan's participant loans of \$5,629,000 in the investment in the Fortune Brands, Inc. Savings Plans Master Trust, whereas this amount was previously presented as a separate investment. The 2004 Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits, as currently presented, includes interest income on participant loans of \$197,000 in the allocated share of Master Trust investment income. The interest income on participant loans was previously reported as a separate component of net investment income. In Note 6 - The Master Trust, the summary of net assets, as currently reported, includes participant loans of \$20,065,000. The summary of net assets, as previously reported did not include participant loans. In addition, the 2004 total Master Trust investment income, as currently presented, includes interest income from loans of \$871,000. The net appreciation in fair value of the Master Trust as previously reported did not include interest income from loans.

**3. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500**

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for Plan benefits as stated in the financial statements to Form 5500 at December 31, 2005 and 2004 (in thousands):

|   | <u>2005</u>       | <u>2004</u>       |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Net assets available for Plan benefits as stated in the accompanying financial statements | \$ 92,325         | \$ 75,809         |
| Less: Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants                                       | 260               | 1,174             |
|   | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |
| Net assets available for Plan benefits as stated in Form 5500                             | \$ 92,065         | \$ 74,635         |
|   | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

The following is a reconciliation of benefits paid to participants as stated in the financial statements to the Form 5500 at December 31, 2005 and 2004 (in thousands):

|  | <u>2005</u>       | <u>2004</u>       |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Benefits paid to participants as stated in the accompanying financial statements | \$ 8,750          | \$ 5,394          |
| Add: Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants as of current year end        | 260               | 1,174             |
| Less: Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants as of prior year end         | 1,174             | 288               |
|  | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |
| Benefits paid to participants as stated in Form 5500                             | \$ 7,836          | \$ 6,280          |
|  | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

**4. Plan Amendments**

The Plan was amended as of August 16, 2005 to provide a new investment fund consisting primarily of ACCO common stock and to spin-off assets and liabilities attributable to ACCO participants to a new plan sponsored by ACCO.

The Plan was amended effective March 28, 2005 to change the automatic lump sum cashout of small benefits to amounts less than \$1,000.

The Plan was amended effective June 1, 2005 to include certain employees of MasterBrand Cabinets Distributive Assembly group in the Plan.

The Plan was amended effective September 1, 2005 to merge the hourly participants of the Therma-Tru 401(k) Retirement Savings plan into the Plan and to preserve certain protected benefits provided under the Therma-Tru Plan.

The Plan was amended June 30, 2004 to merge the Omega Ltd 401(k) Plan into the Plan and on December 7, 2004 to merge the Capital Cabinets Corp 401(k) Plan into the Plan.

**Table of Contents****Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan****Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2005 and 2004****5. Transfers to and from the Plan**

The Therma-Tru Corp. 401(k) Plan merged into the Plan effective September 1, 2005. The value of the assets transferred totaled \$6,051,068. Outstanding loan balances of \$678,221 were also transferred.

Assets and liabilities attributable to ACCO participants were spun-off from the Plan on or about August 16, 2005. The value of the assets transferred totaled \$175,164. Outstanding loan balances totaling \$7,283 were also transferred.

Transfers between the Plan, the Fortune Brands Retirement Savings Plan, and the Future Brands LLC Retirement Savings Plan also occur due to participant changes in status from hourly to salary or transfers between operating companies. Transfers out to other Plans were \$924,235 and transfers in were \$635,392.

The Omega Cabinets Ltd. 401(k) Plan merged into the Plan effective June 30, 2004. The value of assets transferred totaled \$17,765,000.

The Capital Cabinets, Inc. 401(k) merged into the Plan effective December 7, 2004. The value of assets transferred totaled \$1,812,000.

**6. Assets Held in Master Trust**

The investments of the Master Trust are maintained under a trust agreement with the Trustee. The Plan had a total beneficial interest of approximately 11.93% and 9.10% in the Master Trust's net assets at December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Master Trust assets at December 31, 2005 and 2004 are as follows (in thousands):

|   | <u>2005</u>       | <u>2004</u>       |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Interest and dividends receivable                           | \$ 235            | \$ 128            |
| Common stock - corporate                                    |                   |                   |
| Fortune Brands, Inc. common stock                           | 74,226            | 79,823            |
| Other common stock  | 12,752            | 10,529            |
| Registered investment companies                             | 622,777           | 631,678           |
| Interest bearing cash                                       | 41,135            | 47,688            |
| Participant loans   | 20,440            | 20,065            |
|   | <u>771,565</u>    | <u>789,911</u>    |
| Total assets  | 771,565           | 789,911           |
| Administrative expenses payable                             | (105)             | (332)             |
|   | <u>\$ 771,460</u> | <u>\$ 789,579</u> |
| Total net assets of the Master Trust available for benefits | \$ 771,460        | \$ 789,579        |

**Table of Contents****Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan****Notes to Financial Statements****December 31, 2005 and 2004**

The net appreciation in fair value of investments, interest income, dividend income, and administrative expenses related to the Master Trust for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 is as follows (in thousands):

|   | <u>2005</u>   | <u>2004</u>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Net appreciation in fair value                                    |               |               |
| Common stock corporate  |               |               |
| Fortune Brands, Inc. common stock                                 | \$ 5,548      | \$ 5,966      |
| Other common stock  | 1,863         | 3,231         |
| Registered investment companies                                   | 43,026        | 66,565        |
|   | <u>50,437</u> | <u>75,762</u> |
| Net appreciation in fair value of investments of the Master Trust | 50,437        | 75,762        |
| Interest income   | 1,367         | 557           |
| Dividend income   | 1,785         | 1,692         |
| Interest income from participant loans                            | 935           | 871           |
| Administrative expenses   | (126)         | (149)         |
|   | <u>54,398</u> | <u>78,733</u> |
| Total Master Trust investment income                              | \$ 54,398     | \$ 78,733     |

**7. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan provides for various investment options in any combination of stocks, bonds, fixed income securities, mutual funds, and other investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in market value could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for plan benefits and the statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits.

**8. Use of Estimates**

The preparation of the Plan's financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for plan benefits at the date of the financial statements and the changes in net assets available for plan benefits during the reporting period and, when applicable, the disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**9. Credit Risks**

The Master Trust invests primarily in equity and fixed income funds. The fund managers invest in a large number of corporations, industries and other instruments in an attempt to limit exposure to significant loss. The funds maintain a diverse portfolio of common stock across various industry groups and a broad range of debt securities in terms of maturity and industry groups in order to maintain diversity in Master Trust investments. The Plan, however, is subject to risk of loss up to its proportionate share of such assets in the Master Trust.



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**Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2005 and 2004**

**10. Tax Status**

The Internal Revenue Service ( IRS ) issued a determination letter dated March 6, 2002 stating that the Plan meets the requirements of Section 401 (a) of the Code and that the Trust is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501 (a) of the Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the plan administrator believes that the Plan is currently designed and operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. Generally, distributions and withdrawals under the Plan are taxable to participants or their beneficiaries in accordance with Section 402 of the Code.

**11. Related-Party Transactions**

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by The Fidelity Management Trust Company. Any purchases and sales of these funds are performed in the open market. The Fidelity Management Trust Company is the trustee as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Such transactions, while considered party-in-interest transactions under ERISA regulations, are permitted under the provision of the Plan and are specifically exempt from the prohibition of party-in-interest transactions under ERISA.

The Plan also holds shares of Fortune Brands Common Stock in a unitized fund which is made up primarily of stock plus a percentage of short term investments.

Fees paid by the Plan for recordkeeping and investment management services amounted to \$60,200 and \$59,000 for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, respectively. In addition, fees payable to the trustee as of December 31, 2005 and 2004 were \$0 and \$14,000, respectively.

**12. Subsequent Events**

The Plan was amended effective April 1, 2006 to designate the Fortune Stock Fund as an ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) and to allow Participants the right to elect a cash payment of any dividends paid on the shares of Fortune Common Stock in the vested portion of their ESOP subaccounts. If a Participant does not elect cash payment of such dividends, they are automatically reinvested in his or her ESOP subaccount.

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE**

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**Fortune Brands Hourly Employee Retirement Savings Plan**

**Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)**

**December 31, 2005**

**Schedule I**

(a) (b) Identity of Issue, Borrower,

| <u>Lessors or Similar Party</u>   | <u>(c) Description of Investment</u>    | <u>(e) Current Value</u> |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Investment interest in Fortune Brands, Inc. Savings Plans Master Trust net assets excluding loans to participants |   | \$ 84,963,604            |
| * Loans to participants   | Interest rates ranging from 4% to 10.5% | 7,046,308                |
|   |   | <u>\$ 92,009,912</u>     |

\* Indicates a party in interest to the Plan.

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**SIGNATURE**

*The Plan.* Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

FORTUNE BRANDS HOURLY EMPLOYEE

RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

By: /s/ Frank J. Cortese  
Frank J. Cortese, Chairman  
Corporate Employee Benefits Committee of  
Fortune Brands, Inc.

June 29, 2006

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| <b><u>Exhibit<br/>Number</u></b> | <b><u>Description</u></b>   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 23                               | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. |