

ASHTON-TATE NEWS

ASHTON-TATE REPORTS 22.1 PERCENT INCREASE IN EARNINGS
AND 20.2 PERCENT INCREASE IN SALES FOR FIRST QUARTER

TORRANCE, Calif., May 17, 1988 -- Ashton-Tate Corporation (NASDAQ:TATE) today reported net income of \$11.1 million (\$.43 per share) for the quarter ended April 30, 1988, a 22.1 percent increase over net income of \$9.09 million (\$.36 per share) reported for the same quarter last year.

Revenues for the quarter were \$72.4 million, a 20.2 percent increase over the \$60.21 million reported for the first quarter last year.

"Sales of dBASE III PLUS, MultiMate Advantage II and FullWrite Professional, our recently shipped Macintosh word processing product, contributed to our first quarter sales and earnings," said Edward M. Esber Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of Ashton-Tate.

"This was one of our most active quarters in terms of new product announcements. In addition to announcing dBASE IV, we also affirmed a major commitment to the Macintosh, announcing three new products: FullWrite Professional, Full Impact and dBASE Mac RunTime. Both FullWrite Professional and dBASE Mac RunTime were shipped on schedule," Esber said.

 ASHTON-TATE
20101 Hamilton Avenue
Torrance, California 90502-1319
(213) 538-7312

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dBASE IV represents the state-of-the-art in microcomputer database management systems. The product features major enhancements to the dBASE programming language; seamless integration of IBM SAA compatible Structured Query Language (SQL); a completely redesigned user interface; a program compiler; and advanced multi-user capabilities.

FullWrite Professional is a state-of-the-art Macintosh word processing product; Full Impact is a second-generation Macintosh spreadsheet that combines power with high-quality presentation and business report capabilities and dBASE Mac RunTime is an execute-only version of dBASE Mac that enables developers to distribute applications built on dBASE Mac without purchasing the full package.

FullWrite Professional was acquired with Fullpaint, a Macintosh paint package, in the acquisition of Ann Arbor Softworks, Inc.

Also during the quarter, the company:

- o Announced a technology agreement with Interbase Software Corporation under which the two companies will jointly develop technology components for Ashton-Tate's next generation of workstation relational database management products running under OS/2 Presentation Manager and other operating systems. The company also made an equity investment in Interbase.

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o Announced an equity investment in Sybase Corporation, a developer and marketer of minicomputer database products.

Sybase developed the technology on which the Ashton-Tate/Microsoft SQL Server is based.

o Introduced dBASE DIRECT/38, a product that allows personal computer users to access and manipulate IBM System/38 data through dBASE III PLUS and dBASE IV.

Ashton-Tate Corporation is one of the largest developers and marketers of business applications software and the major supplier of relational database management systems for microcomputers. The markets microcomputer software products in the following categories: database management, word processing, business graphics, desktop publishing and integrated products.

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^R Ashton-Tate, dBASE and FullPaint are registered trademarks of Ashton-Tate Corporation.

TM dBASE IV, dBASE Mac, Full Impact, FullWrite Professional and dBASE DIRECT/38 are trademarks of Ashton-Tate Corporation.

COMPARATIVE RESULTS
(In thousands, except per share data)

	<u>THREE MONTHS ENDED</u>		
	<u>April 30, 1988</u>	<u>April 30, 1987</u>	<u>January 31, 1988</u>
Net Revenues	\$72,363	\$60,211	\$75,508
Pre-Tax Income	18,164	16,245	22,755
Net Income	11,064	9,098	12,755
Net Income Per Share	.43	.36	.50
Average Shares Outstanding	25,938	25,154	25,663