SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D. C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): December 21, 2004

ASHLAND INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Kentucky

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-2918 (Commission File Number) 61-0122250 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard, Covington, Kentucky (Address of principal executive offices)

41012-0391 (Zip Code)

P.O. Box 391, Covington, Kentucky

41012-0391

(Mailing Address) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (859) 815-3333

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- [] Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- [] Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- [] Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- [] Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

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On December 21, 2004, Ashland Inc. ("Ashland") will include the information contained in exhibit 99.1 on the "Investor Relations" section of its website located at www.ashland.com. Ashland is furnishing the information pursuant to the Securities and Exchange Commission's ("SEC") Regulation FD. The information contained in exhibit 99.1 includes five years (fiscal years 2000 - 2004) of supplemental financial information concerning Ashland and its consolidated subsidiaries. The information is intended to be considered in the context of Ashland's SEC filings and other public announcements that Ashland may make from time to time.

By filing this report on Form 8-K, Ashland makes no admission as to the materiality of any information in this report. Ashland reserves the right to discontinue the availability of the data in the attached exhibit from its website at any time.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

- (c) Exhibits
- 99.1 5-Year Supplemental Financial Information posted to Ashland Inc.'s Website

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

ASHLAND INC. -----(Registrant)

/s/ J. Marvin Quin Date: December 21, 2004

J. Marvin Quin Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Name:

Title:

EXHIBIT INDEX

99.1 5-Year Supplemental Financial Information posted to Ashland's website

Ashland Inc. and Consolidated Subsidiaries STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME Years Ended September 30

(In millions except per share data)		2004		2003		2002		2001		2000
REVENUES Sales and operating revenues Equity income	\$	8,301 432	\$	7,566 301	\$	7,390 181	\$	7,544 755	\$	7,785 395
Other income		48		45		46		53		63
COSTS AND EXPENSES		8,781		7,912		7,617		8,352		8,243
Cost of sales and operating expenses Selling, general and administrative expenses		6,948 1,171		6,390 1,256		6,115 1,181		6,358 1,163		6,517 1,081
		8,119		7,646		7,296		7,521		7,598
OPERATING INCOME Net interest and other financial costs		662 (114)		266 (128)		321 (138)		831 (175)		645 (194)
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS BEFORE INCOME TAXES Income taxes		548 (150)		138 (44)		183 (68)		656 (266)		451 (179)
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS Results from discontinued operations		398 (20)		94 (14)		115 13		390 32		272 (202)
INCOME BEFORE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF ACCOUNTING CHANGES Cumulative effect of accounting changes		378		80 (5)		128 (11)		422 (5)		70 -
NET INCOME	\$	378 ======	\$	75 ======	\$ ===	117 ======	\$	417	\$	70 =====
EARNINGS PER SHARE Basic										
Income from continuing operations Results from discontinued operations Cumulative effect of accounting changes	\$	5.69 (.28)	\$	1.37 (.19) (.08)	\$	1.67 .19 (.17)	\$	5.60 .46 (.07)	\$	3.84 (2.85)
Net income	\$	5.41	\$	1.10	\$	1.69	\$	5.99	\$.99
Diluted										
Income from continuing operations Results from discontinued operations Cumulative effect of accounting changes	\$	5.59 (.28)	\$	1.37 (.19) (.08)	\$	1.64 .19 (.16)	\$	5.54 .45 (.06)	\$	3.83 (2.85) -
Net income	\$	5.31	\$	1.10	\$	1.67	\$	5.93	\$.98
	===	======	===	======	===	======	===	======	==:	======

Ashland Inc. and Consolidated Subsidiaries CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS September 30

(In millions)		2004		2003		2002		2001		2000
ASSETS										
CURRENT ASSETS										
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	243	\$	223	\$	90	\$	236	\$	67
Accounts receivable	Ψ	1,290	Ψ	1,135	Ψ	1,056	Ψ	1,165	Ψ	1,211
Inventories		458		441		456		468		461
Deferred income taxes		103		142		119		131		136
Current assets of discontinued operations held for sale		-		-		211		64		99
Other current assets		208		144		139		169		199
		2,302		2,085		2,071		2,233		2,173
INVESTMENTS AND OTHER ASSETS										
Investment in Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC (MAP)		2,713		2,448		2,350		2,387		2,295
Goodwill		513		523		510		517		525
Asbestos insurance receivable (noncurrent portion)		399		399		171		162		46
Noncurrent assets of discontinued operations held for sale		-		-		-		145		142
Other noncurrent assets		319		279		261		299		288
		3,944		3,649		3,292		3,510		3,296
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT										
Cost										
APAC		1,302		1,337		1,372		1,304		1,234
Ashland Distribution		356		357		383		382		356
Ashland Specialty Chemical		780		723		710		701		662
Valvoline		466 200		452 178		406		395		354
Corporate				1/8		135		143		159
		3,104		3,047		3,006		2,925		2,765
Accumulated depreciation, depletion and amortization		(1,848)		(1,775)		(1,647)		(1,540)		(1,410)
		1,256		1,272		1,359		1,385		1,355

	\$	7,502	\$	7,006	\$	6,722	\$	7,128	\$	6,824
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	===	======	==	======	==:	======	===	======	===	======
CURRENT LIABILITIES CURRENT LIABILITIES										
Debt due within one year										
Short-term debt	\$	40	\$	-	\$	10	\$	-	\$	245
Current portion of long-term debt		399		102		191		85		82
Trade and other payables		1,362		1,371		1,256		1,399		1,309
Current liabilities of discontinued operations held for sale		-		-		39		26		35
Income taxes		14		11		24		20		40
NOVOLIDOCUT LEADEL TEETO		1,815		1,484		1,520		1,530		1,711
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES		1 100		1 510		1 606		1 706		1 000
Long-term debt (less current portion) Employee benefit obligations		1,109 428		1,512 385		1,606 509		1,786 412		1,899 383
Deferred income taxes		367		291		246		439		283
Reserves of captive insurance companies		179		168		166		173		179
Asbestos litigation reserve (noncurrent portion)		568		560		152		162		44
Noncurrent liabilities of discontinued operations held for sale		-		-		-		13		11
Other long-term liabilities and deferred credits		330		353		350		387		349
		2,981		3,269		3,029		3,372		3,148
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY Common stock		72		68		68		60		70
Paid-in capital		72 478		350		338		69 363		70 388
Retained earnings		2,262		1,961		1,961		1,920		1,579
Accumulated other comprehensive loss		(106)		(126)		(194)		(126)		(72)
		2,706		2,253		2,173		2,226		1,965
	 ¢	7,502	 ¢	7,006	 ¢	6,722	 ¢	7,128	\$	6,824
	φ ===	7,502	φ ==	======	φ ==:	======	φ ===		φ ===	=======

(In millions)		2004		2003		2002		2001		2000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATIONS										
Income from continuing operations	\$	398	\$	94	\$	115	\$	390	\$	272
Expense (income) not affecting cash Depreciation, depletion and amortization		193		204		208		240		227
Deferred income taxes		125		49		(121)		151		107
Equity income from affiliates		(432)		(301)		(181)		(755)		(395)
Distributions from equity affiliates		169		203		201		664		282
Other items Change in operating assets and liabilities (1)		2 (246)		1 (8)		(54)		5 119		(19) (6)
change in operating assets and frabilities (1)						(34)				
		209		242		168		814		468
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING		_		_		55		52		988
Proceeds from issuance of long-term debt Proceeds from issuance of common stock		108		2		55 11		52 15		988 5
Repayment of long-term debt		(100)		(216)		(140)		(169)		(675)
Repurchase of common stock				-		(42)		(49)		`(89)
Increase (decrease) in short-term debt		40		(10)		10		(245)		63
Dividends paid		(77)		(75)		(76)		(76)		(78)
CACH FLOVO FROM TANGESTMENT		(29)		(299)		(182)		(472)		214
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTMENT Additions to property, plant and equipment		(210)		(112)		(178)		(214)		(240)
Purchase of operations - net of cash acquired		(5)		(5)		(15)		(91)		(590)
Proceeds from sale of operations		48		`7		` - ´		` 9´		` 50´
Other - net		26		13		26		37		85
		(141)		(97)		(167)		(259)		(695)
CASH PROVIDED (USED) BY CONTINUING OPERATIONS		39		(154)		(181)		83		(13)
Cash provided (used) by discontinued operations		(19)		287		35		86		(30)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		20		133		(146)		169		(43)
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year		223		90		236		67		110
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$	243	\$	223	\$	90	\$	236	\$	67 ======
DESCRIPTION (THORSESS) THE OPERATING ASSETS (1)										
DECREASE (INCREASE) IN OPERATING ASSETS (1) Accounts receivable	\$	(157)	\$	(79)	\$	110	\$	70	\$	69
Inventories	Ф	(14)	Ф	15	Ф	12	Ф	7 b	Ф	1
Deferred income taxes		2		22		17		-		(28)
Other current assets		(64)		(5)		30		31		(29)
Investments and other assets		(15)		7		41		(168)		(69)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN OPERATING LIABILITIES (1)		(1E)		115		(122)		71		100
Trade and other payables Income taxes		(15) (19)		115 (50)		(132) (18)		71 4		108 (15)
Noncurrent liabilities		36		(33)		(114)		106		(43)
CHANCE IN ODERATING ACCETS AND LIABILITYS	 r	(246)			·			110		
CHANGE IN OPERATING ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	\$ ===	(246) =====	\$ ===:	(8) ======	\$ ====	(54) =====	\$ ===	119	\$ ===	(6) =====

⁽¹⁾ Excludes changes resulting from operations acquired or sold.

(In millions)	2004		2003		2002		2001		2000
REVENUES									
Sales and operating revenues APAC Ashland Distribution Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline Intersegment sales (1)	\$ 2,525 3,199 1,386 1,297	\$	2,400 2,811 1,212 1,235	\$	2,652 2,541 1,130 1,152	\$	2,624 2,858 1,091 1,064	\$	2,504 3,221 1,127 1,049
Ashland Distribution Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline	(19) (86) (1)		(21) (69) (2)		(20) (63) (2)		(27) (64) (2)		(39) (76) (1)
	8,301		7,566		7,390		7,544		7,785
Equity income APAC Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline	19 8		9 7 -		- 4 1		- 5 1		- 4 2
Refining and Marketing	405		285		176		749		389
	432		301		181		755		395
Other income APAC	22 9		- 18		12 17		13 15		21 9
Ashland Distribution Ashland Specialty Chemical	16		10		4		6		12
Valvoline Refining and Marketing	4 (6)		5 2		6 2		6 7		7 6
Corporate	3		10		5		6		8
	48		45		46		53		63
	\$ 8,781 =======	\$	7,912	\$	7,617	\$	8,352	\$	8,243
OPERATING INCOME	. 444	•	(40)	•	400	•		•	110
APAC Ashland Distribution Ashland Specialty Chemical	\$ 111 78 87	\$	(42) 32 31	\$	122 1 70	\$	55 35 38	\$	140 70 69
Valvoline Refining and Marketing (2)	105 383		87 263		77 143		81 707		78 361
Corporate	(102)		(105)		(92)		(85)		(73)
	\$ 662 ======	\$ ==:	266	\$	321	\$	831 ======	\$	645
DEPRECIATION, DEPLETION AND AMORTIZATION APAC	\$ 95	\$	108	\$	114	\$	133	\$	129
Ashland Distribution	18	•	19	•	21	Ť	27	•	23
Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline	41 27		40 26		38 24		46 23		40 22
Corporate	12		11		11		11		13
	\$ 193 =======	\$	204	\$	208	\$	240	\$	227

⁽²⁾ Includes Ashland's equity income from MAP, amortization related to Ashland's excess investment in MAP, and other activities associated with refining and marketing.

(In millions)	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
ASSETS APAC Ashland Distribution Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline Refining and Marketing Corporate (1)	\$ 1,428	\$ 1,481	\$ 1,498	\$ 1,574	\$ 1,654
	922	856	884	961	1,047
	842	749	941	941	887
	658	667	611	642	573
	2,742	2,484	2,409	2,452	2,352
	910	769	379	558	311
CAPITAL EMPLOYED	\$ 7,502	\$ 7,006	\$ 6,722	\$ 7,128	\$ 6,824
	======	======	=======	========	=======
APAC Ashland Distribution Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline Refining and Marketing Corporate	\$ 959	\$ 1,014	\$ 1,039	\$ 1,047	\$ 1,156
	449	418	459	470	574
	490	438	610	612	597
	388	399	343	389	333
	2,053	1,866	1,818	1,654	1,679
	(85)	(268)	(289)	(75)	(148)
	\$ 4,254	\$ 3,867	\$ 3,980	\$ 4,097	\$ 4,191
	=======	======	======	======	=======
RETURN ON INVESTMENT (2) APAC Ashland Distribution Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline Refining and Marketing Ashland Inc. consolidated	7.3% 10.8% 12.3% 15.7% 12.4% 11.7%	(2.4)% 4.3 % 4.8 % 14.1 % 8.7 % 4.4 %	7.3 % (0.5)% 9.8 % 12.5 % 4.9 % 5.0 %	2.5% 2.8% 5.4% 12.5% 25.3% 12.3%	7.5% 7.2% 10.1% 12.2% 13.2% 9.6%
ADDITIONS TO PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT APAC Ashland Distribution Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline Corporate	\$ 73 10 62 26 39	\$ 47 5 34 18 8	\$ 107 15 27 22 7	\$ 92 25 39 37 21	\$ 101 25 64 30 20
	\$ 210	\$ 112	\$ 178	\$ 214	\$ 240
	======	=======	=======	=======	======

Includes cash, cash equivalents and other unallocated assets. Calculated as income from continuing operations before interest expense on debt (net of related tax benefits) divided by average quarterly capital employed (excluding capital employed in discontinued operations). (1) (2)

		2004		2003		2002		2001		2000
OPERATING INFORMATION APAC										
Construction backlog at September 30 (millions) (1)	\$	1,746	\$	1,745	\$	1,691	\$	1,629	\$	1,397
Net construction job revenues (millions) (2)	\$	1,433	\$	1,361	\$	1,527	\$	1,547	\$	1,536
Hot-mix asphalt production (million tons)	Ψ	33.4	Ψ	32.5	Ψ	36.7	Ψ	36.7	Ψ	35.0
Aggregate production (million tons)		29.6		28.7		31.0		28.7		27.8
Ready-mix concrete production (million cubic yards)		1.7		2.0		2.1		2.3		2.6
Ashland Distribution (3)		1.7		2.0		2.1		2.5		2.0
Sales per shipping day (millions)	\$	12.6	\$	11.2	\$	10.1	\$	11.2	\$	12.8
Gross profit as a percent of sales	Ψ	9.6%	Ψ	9.9%	Ψ	9.7%	Ψ	8.9%	Ψ	9.1%
Ashland Specialty Chemical (3)		9.0%		3.3%		3.170		0.5%		9.1%
Sales per shipping day (millions)	\$	5.4	\$	4.8	\$	4.5	\$	4.3	\$	4.5
Gross profit as a percent of sales	Ψ	27.9%	Ψ	29.9%	Ψ	32.9%	Ψ	29.7%	Ψ	29.7%
Valvoline		21.5%		29.970		32.9%		23.170		29.170
Lubricant sales (million gallons)		191.6		193.5		199.0		187.4		194.1
Premium lubricants (percent of U.S. branded volumes)		21.5%		18.5%		16.1%		11.7%		10.7%
Refining and Marketing (4)		21.5%		10.5%		10.1%		11.7/0		10.7%
Refinery runs (thousand barrels per day)										
Crude oil refined		920		900		930		912		892
Other charge and blend stocks		167		133		151		139		141
Refined product yields (thousand barrels per day)		107		133		131		139		141
Gasoline		600		554		594		560		559
Distillates		291		278		293		279		272
		291 74		278 71		293 73				73
Asphalt Other				131		73 127		75 136		131
other		135		131		127		136		131
Total		1 100		1 024		1,087		1,050		1 025
Refined product sales (thousand barrels per day) (5)		1,100		1,034		,		1,302		1,035
Refining and wholesale marketing margin (per barrel) (6)	\$	1,385 3.11	\$	1,345 2.59	\$	1,321 1.82	\$	5.17	\$	1,309
Speedway SuperAmerica (SSA)	Ф	3.11	Ф	2.59	Ф	1.82	Ф	5.17	Ф	2.63
		1 605		1 701		2 062		0 145		2 200
Retail outlets at September 30		1,685		1,791		2,063		2,145		2,288
Gasoline and distillate sales (million gallons)	ф	3,165	ф	3,423	ф	3,622	ф	3,587	ф	3,742
Gross margin - gasoline and distillates (per gallon)	\$ \$.1167	\$.1191	\$.1040	\$ \$.1218	\$.1284
Merchandise sales (millions)	Ъ	2,301	\$	2,281	\$	2,381	Ф	2,186	\$	2,143
Merchandise margin (as a percent of sales)		24.4%		24.5%		24.2%		23.3%		24.5%

(1) Includes APAC's proportionate share of the backlog of unconsolidated joint ventures.

Total construction job revenues, less subcontract costs. Sales are defined as sales and operating revenues. Gross profit is defined as sales and operating revenues, less cost of sales and operating expenses.

(4)

(5)

operating expenses.

Amounts represent 100% of MAP's operations, in which Ashland owns a 38% interest.

Total average daily volume of all refined product sales to MAP's wholesale, branded and retail (SSA) customers.

Sales revenue less cost of refinery inputs, purchased products and manufacturing expenses, including depreciation. (6)

(In millions)		2004	2003			2002		2001		2000
INTERNATIONAL ASSETS Ashland Distribution	\$	184	\$	152	\$	125	\$	126	\$	156
Ashland Specialty Chemical	Ф	416	Ф	352	Ф	319	Ф	295	Ф	226
Valvoline		132		121		101		92		94
VALVOLLIIE										
		732		625		545		513		476
INTERNATIONAL LIABILITIES										
Ashland Distribution		88		59		49		50		52
Ashland Specialty Chemical		128		104		99		99		69
Valvoline		54		45		37		36		31
		270		208		185		185		152
NET INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT		0.0		00		7.0		7.0		101
Ashland Distribution		96		93		76		76		104
Ashland Specialty Chemical Valvoline		288 78		248 76		220 64		196 56		157 63
valvollile		78		76		04		50		03
	\$	462	\$	417	\$	360	\$	328	\$	324
	===	======	===	======	===	======	===:	======	===	=======
INTERNATIONAL INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES (1)										
Ashland Distribution	\$	14	\$	8	\$	6	\$	12	\$	13
Ashland Specialty Chemical		73		54		54		48		34
Valvoline		20		16		9		2		8
	\$	107	\$	78	\$	69	\$	62	\$	55
	-	======	-	======	-	======	-	======	-	======
INTERNATIONAL REVENUES										
Ashland Distribution	\$	537	\$	432	\$	360	\$	417	\$	496
Ashland Specialty Chemical		589		485		418		371		373
Valvoline		249		208		177		168		180
	\$	1,375	\$	1,125	\$	955	\$	956	\$	1,049
	===	======	===	======	===	======	===:	======	===	======

⁽¹⁾ Amounts represent income recorded by international subsidiaries, equity and dividend income from international affiliates, and international source royalty and other income recorded by U.S. subsidiaries. Amounts do not reflect any allocation of expenses incurred in the U.S. (e.g., research and development, advertising or administrative expenses) for the benefit of both U.S. and international operations.

(In millions)		2004		2003		2002		2001		2000
INTERNATIONAL ASSETS										
Europe	\$	432	\$	368	\$	325	\$	295	\$	237
Canada		164		141		124		126		143
Asia		58		47		40		38		32
Australia and New Zealand		48		43		34		27		31
Other		30		26		22		27		33
		732		625		545		513		476
INTERNATIONAL LIABILITIES										
Europe		180		137		129		119		89
Canada		52		40		32		42		38
Asia		11		11		8		8		5
Australia and New Zealand		17		11		10		9		13
Other		10		9		6		7		7
		270		208		185		185		152
NET INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT										
Europe		252		231		196		176		148
Canada		112		101		92		84		105
Asia		47		36		32		30		27
Australia and New Zealand		31		32		24		18		18
Other Other		20		17		16		20		26
	\$	462	\$	417	\$	360	\$	328	\$	324
	===	======	===	======	===:	======	===:	======	====	======
INTERNATIONAL INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAXES (1)										
Europe	\$	41	\$	23	\$	30	\$	25	\$	19
Canada		32		25		25		26		24
Asia		14		14		11		10		9
Australia and New Zealand		11		8		3		1		1
Other Other		9		8		-		-		2
	\$	107	\$	78	\$	69	\$	62	\$	55
		======		======		======		======		======
INTERNATIONAL REVENUES										
Europe	\$	757	\$	618	\$	510	\$	475	\$	527
Canada	•	344		292	•	265	·	288	•	321
Asia		87		76		63		55		50
Australia and New Zealand		95		75		61		61		68
Other		92		64		56		77		83
	\$	1,375	\$	1,125	\$	955	\$	956	\$	1,049
		======		======	-	=====		======		=======

⁽¹⁾ Amounts represent income recorded by international subsidiaries, equity and dividend income from international affiliates, and international source royalty and other income recorded by U.S. subsidiaries. Amounts do not reflect any allocation of expenses incurred in the U.S. (e.g., research and development, advertising or administrative expenses) for the benefit of both U.S. and international operations.