

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934  
(Amendment No. )  
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L.B. Foster Co.  
-----

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock  
-----

(Title of Class of Securities)

350060109  
-----

(CUSIP Number)

September 30, 1999  
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(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

- Rule 13d-1(b)  
 Rule 13d-1(c)  
 Rule 13d-1(d)

The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

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CUSIP No. 350060109 13G  
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-----  
1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON  
Artisan Partners Limited Partnership 39-1807188  
-----

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

Not Applicable

(a) [ ]  
(b) [ ]

-----  
3 SEC USE ONLY  
-----

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
Delaware  
-----

5 SOLE VOTING POWER  
None

-----  
NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY  
6 SHARED VOTING POWER  
1,125,300  
-----

EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER None
	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER 1,125,300
9	AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON 1,125,300	
10	CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES Not Applicable	
11	PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9 11.74%	
12	TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON IA	

SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

-----  
CUSIP No. 350060109  
-----

13G

-----  
1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON  
Artisan Investment Corporation  
-----

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

Not Applicable

(a) [ ]  
(b) [ ]

-----  
3 SEC USE ONLY  
-----

-----  
4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
Wisconsin  
-----

5 SOLE VOTING POWER  
None

NUMBER OF  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY

6 SHARED VOTING POWER  
1,125,300

EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
None

WITH

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
1,125,300

-----  
9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
1,125,300  
-----

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN  
SHARES

Not Applicable

-----  
11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9  
11.74%  
-----

-----  
12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON  
CO  
-----

SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

-----  
1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON  
Andrew A. Ziegler  
-----

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

Not Applicable

(a) [ ]  
(b) [ ]

-----  
3 SEC USE ONLY  
-----

-----  
4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
U.S.A.  
-----

5 SOLE VOTING POWER  
None

NUMBER OF  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY

-----  
6 SHARED VOTING POWER  
1,125,300  
-----

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
None

EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON  
WITH

-----  
8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
1,125,300  
-----

-----  
9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
1,125,300  
-----

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN  
SHARES

Not Applicable

-----  
11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9  
11.74%  
-----

-----  
12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON  
IN  
-----

SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

-----  
CUSIP No. 350060109  
-----

13G

-----  
1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON  
Carlene Murphy Ziegler  
-----

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

Not Applicable

(a) [ ]  
(b) [ ]

-----  
3 SEC USE ONLY  
-----

-----  
4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
U.S.A.  
-----

5 SOLE VOTING POWER  
None

NUMBER OF  
SHARES  
BENEFICIALLY  
OWNED BY

6 SHARED VOTING POWER  
1,125,300

EACH  
REPORTING  
PERSON

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
None

WITH

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
1,125,300

-----  
9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
1,125,300  
-----

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN  
SHARES

Not Applicable

-----  
11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9  
11.74%  
-----

-----  
12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON  
IN  
-----

SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILLING OUT!

Item 1(a) Name of Issuer:  
L.B. Foster Co.

Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
415 Holiday Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Item 2(a) Name of Person Filing:  
Artisan Partners Limited Partnership ("Artisan Partners")  
Artisan Investment Corporation, the general partner of  
Artisan Partners ("Artisan Corp.")  
Andrew A. Ziegler  
Carlene Murphy Ziegler

Item 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office:  
Artisan Partners, Artisan Corp., Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Ziegler  
are all located at:  
1000 North Water Street, #1770  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Item 2(c) Citizenship:  
Artisan Partners is a Delaware limited partnership  
Artisan Corp. is a Wisconsin corporation  
Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Ziegler are U.S. citizens

Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:  
Common Stock

Item 2(e) CUSIP Number:  
350060109

Item 3 Type of Person:  
(e) Artisan Partners is an Investment Adviser registered  
under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940;  
Artisan Corp. is the General Partner of Artisan Partners;  
Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Ziegler are the principal stockholders  
of Artisan Corp.

- Item 4            Ownership (at December 9, 1999):
- (a) Amount owned "beneficially" within the meaning of rule 13d-3:  
  
          1,125,300 shares
  - (b) Percent of class:  
  
          11.74% (based on 9,586,040 shares outstanding on November 30, 1999)
  - (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
    - (i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote: None
    - (ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote:  
          1,125,300
    - (iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: None
    - (iv) shared power to dispose or to direct disposition of: 1,125,300

- Item 5            Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:  
  
          Not Applicable

- Item 6            Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:  
  
          The shares reported herein have been acquired on behalf of investment advisory clients of Artisan Partners over the accounts of which Artisan Partners has discretionary authority. Persons other than Artisan Partners are entitled to receive all dividends from, and proceeds from the sale of, those shares.

- Item 7            Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company:  
  
          Not Applicable

- Item 8            Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:  
  
          Not Applicable

- Item 9            Notice of Dissolution of Group:  
  
          Not Applicable

Item 10

Certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.



Signature

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After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: December 13, 1999

The undersigned corporation, on the date above written, agrees and consents to the joint filing on its behalf of this Schedule 13G in connection with its beneficial ownership of the security reported herein.

ARTISAN INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
for itself and as general partner of  
ARTISAN PARTNERS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

By: /s/ Lawrence Totsky  
-----  
Lawrence A. Totsky  
Chief Financial Officer

The undersigned individuals, on the date above written, agree and consent to the joint filing on their behalf of this Schedule 13G in connection with their beneficial ownership of the security reported herein.

ANDREW A. ZIEGLER

/s/ Andrew A. Ziegler  
-----

CARLENE MURPHY ZIEGLER

/s/ Carlene Murphy Ziegler  
-----

