Solution:

$$Cost\ of\ Acquistion\ of\ Inventory = Cost\ of\ Goods\ Sold + Change\ in\ Inventory$$

Here,

$$Cost\ of\ Goods\ Sold = \$77{,}739$$

And

$$Change\ in\ Inventory = \$1{,}000$$

Thus, the cost of acquisition of inventory is:

$$Cost\ of\ Acquisition\ of\ Inventory = \$78{,}739\ million$$

The two possible reasons for the fall of the gross profit percentages are as follows:

(a) Less inventory sales, as the inventory has increased significantly, which means less goods have been sold that time. This contributes significantly to the decrease in gross profit.
(b) Off season problems.