

Top Stories in Retail November 30th, 2009

J. Crew profit more than doubles in Q3; same-store sales up 8%

J. Crew Group said Tuesday its profit more than doubled in the third quarter as sales rose by a double-digit percentage. The company earned \$43.9 million in the quarter that ended Oct. 31, compared with \$19 million a year earlier. The results beat expectations.

Consumer confidence shows improvement

The Conference Board released its November 2009 Consumer Confidence Index on Tuesday, which showed a slight increase from 48.7 to 49.5.

McDonald's rolls out 'green' logo in Europe

McDonald's Corp. said Monday it is swapping its traditional red backdrop for a deep hunter green to promote a more eco-friendly image in Europe.

NRF: Proposed fed rules threaten instant credit

The National Retail Federation said Tuesday it has asked the Federal Reserve to reconsider proposed new rules that threaten retailers' ability to offer customers instant credit.

Survey: Weekly sales rise from year ago

A report released Tuesday by the International Council of Shopping Centers and Goldman Sachs found that chain-store sales for the week ended Nov. 21 rose 3.3% from the year-earlier period.

Dollar Tree's Q3 profit soars 58%, raises full-year view

Dollar Tree again raised its fiscal-year forecast as its third-quarter earnings rose a much stronger-than-expected 58% on increased customer traffic and sales.

DSW increases profits in Q3

Footwear retailer DSW said Tuesday it generated net income in the third quarter ended Oct. 31 of \$26.6 million, compared with net income of \$13.2 million in the year-ago period.

Genesco reports Q3 profit lift

Genesco on Tuesday reported earnings of \$11.5 million for the third quarter ended Oct. 31, compared with earnings \$9.0 million in the year-ago period.

Retail container volume could see increases in 2010

The monthly Port Tracker report released Tuesday by the National Retail Federation and HIS Global Insight suggested that import cargo volume at the nation's major retail container ports could see its first year-over-year increases in more than two years, beginning in early 2010.

Survey: Black Friday bargains could draw up to 134 million shoppers

A new survey released Tuesday by the National Retail Federation found that, with many Americans eager to get their hands on discounted toys, outerwear, books, and even flat-screen TVs, retailers could see shopping levels over Black Friday weekend rise from last year.

American Eagle Q3 profit lifts despite sales drop

American Eagle Outfitters said Tuesday that its profit grew to \$59.2 million for the third quarter ended Oct. 31, compared with a profit of \$42.6 million in the year-ago period.

Zale loss widens in Q1, still beats Street

Zale Corp. reported Tuesday that it lost \$57.6 million in the fiscal first quarter ended Oct. 31, compared with a loss of \$48.4 million in the year-ago period.

Book category continues to suffer in downturn

The country's two major booksellers reported quarterly results on Tuesday, and the picture wasn't rosy. Barnes & Noble reported a second-quarter loss of \$24 million, widened from a loss of \$18 million a year ago.

Build-A-Bear to air TV special

Build-A-Bear Workshop will have its signature animals come to life on television in a one-hour feature movie Tuesday on ABC Family.

Whole Foods gives incentive for workers to lose weight

Whole Foods Market plans to give discounts to employees who lose weight and improve their health, according to a Bloomberg report.

J.C. Penney extends Cyber Monday deals

J. C. Penney Co. said it plans to offer its Cyber Monday online specials an entire day earlier this year, making Nov. 29 to Nov. 30, the biggest cyber sale in the company's history.

Report: 7-Eleven to add 550 stores during next three years

7-Eleven will add more than 75 stores in North Texas during the next three years as part of a nationwide fast-track plan fueled by opportunities created by the downturn in the commercial real estate market, *The Dallas Business Journal* reported.

Hibbett Sports reports Q3 profit rise of 15%, beats Street

Sporting-goods retailer Hibbett Sports said late Thursday its profit surged 15% in the third quarter as sales rose and expenses were contained.

Ann Taylor swings to profit amid lower costs

AnnTaylor Stores Corp. on Friday reported a third-quarter profit as it cut costs and booked lower restructuring charges than it did a year ago.

Report: Burkle buys large share of Barneys

Supermarket mogul Ron Burkle and his investment arm, Yucaipa, have purchased a large amount of U.S. luxury retail chain Barneys New York's debt, the *Wall Street Journal* said.