

This Week's Top Stories in Retail **February 06, 2009**

Destination Maternity Jan. Same-Store Sales Up 5.1%

Philadelphia (February 5, 2009) Destination Maternity Corp. said Thursday that same-store sales rose 5.1% in January.

Walgreen Buys 12 Drug Stores From Rite Aid

Deerfield, Ill. (February 5, 2009) Walgreen Co. said Thursday it has agreed to purchase 12 drug stores from Rite Aid Corp., with seven locations in San Francisco and five in eastern Idaho.

NRF: Stimulus Bill Not Enough

Washington, D.C. (February 5, 2009) The National Retail Federation told the Senate that the economic stimulus legislation under consideration fails to do enough for consumers, and repeated its call for a series of national sales-tax holidays intended to jump-start spending.

Falling Gasoline Prices Hurt BJ's

Natick, Mass. (February 5, 2009) BJ's Wholesale Club Inc. said Thursday same-store sales edged down in January, hurt by lower sales of gas that was cheaper than a year ago.

American Eagle Outfitters Same-Store Sales Plunge 22%

Pittsburgh (February 5, 2009) American Eagle Outfitters Inc. said Thursday that same-store sales fell 22% in January, a bigger drop than analysts expected.

Gymboree 4Q Same-Store Sales Drop 2%

San Francisco (February 5, 2009) Gymboree Corp. said Thursday its same-store sales fell 2% in the fourth quarter.

A&F Same-Store Sales Fall 20% in Jan.

New Albany, Ohio (February 5, 2009) Abercrombie & Fitch Co. said Thursday its same-store sales fell 20% in January.

Fortunoff Files for Chapter 11

New York City (February 5, 2009) Jewelry and housewares retailer Fortunoff Holdings filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Thursday.

Chief Merchandising Officer Leaves Stage Stores

Houston (February 5, 2009) Stage Stores, Inc. announced that Canny Murray has resigned from her position as executive VP, chief merchandising officer of the stage division, effective Friday.

Sally Beauty 1Q Profit Climbs 13%

Denton, Texas (February 5, 2009) Sally Beauty Holdings Inc. said Thursday its fiscal first-quarter profit rose 13%, helped by an increase in same-store sales.

Hhgregg 3Q Profit Up 13%

Indianapolis (February 5, 2009) Hhgregg Inc. said Thursday fiscal third-quarter earnings rose 13%. Profit for the quarter ended Dec. 31 rose to \$17.1 million from \$15.1 million last year.

DSW Sales Drop in 4Q

Columbus, Ohio (February 5, 2009) DSW Inc. on Thursday said fourth-quarter sales missed Wall Street expectations, hurt by a 7.2% decline in same-store sales.

Dollar Tree Shines in 4Q

Chesapeake, Va. (February 5, 2009) Dollar Tree, Inc. reported total sales of \$1.39 billion for its fiscal fourth quarter of 2008, a 6.8% increase compared to \$1.30 billion in last year's fiscal fourth quarter. Same-store sales for the quarter increased 2.2%.

Department Stores and Discounts Report Dismal Sales in Jan.

New York City (February 5, 2009) Many department stores and discounters Thursday reported sharp declines in January same-store sales amid the weakening consumer spending and fierce winter weather, which resulted in several major snow and ice storms.

Nordstrom January Same-Store Sales Fall 11.4%

Seattle (February 5, 2009) Nordstrom Inc. said Thursday that same-store sales skidded 11.4%. Seattle-based Nordstrom said overall sales for the month fell 3.7% to \$468 million.

Buckle's Same-Store Sales up 14.7% in January

New York City (February 5, 2009) The Buckle Inc. saw its same-store sales jump 14.7% in January as the teen apparel and accessories retailer continued to outperform most of its competitors.

Wal-Mart Beats Wall Street Expectations

Bentonville, Ark. (February 5, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said Thursday that same-store sales rose 2.1% in January as consumers continued to hunt for bargains and purchased necessities such as groceries.

CVS Finalizes Plans for New DC

Woonsocket, R.I. (February 5, 2009) CVS/pharmacy, America's largest retail pharmacy, announced today that it is finalizing plans to build a 750,000-sq.-ft. distribution center in Chemung County, New York.

Children's Place to Cut Spending

Secaucus, N.J. (February 5, 2009) Children's Place Retail Stores Inc. said Thursday that it will lower spending across several business components during the first quarter as part of efforts that will save the company about \$20 million a year.

Talbots Cuts Corporate Staff in New Cost-Reduction Program

Hingham, Mass. (February 5, 2009) The Talbots announced Thursday that it has implemented a new \$150 million expense-reduction program to better position the company for the future.

Jo-Ann Stores' 4Q Same-Store Sales Fall 2.9%

Hudson, Ohio (February 5, 2009) Jo-Ann Stores, Inc. reported that net sales for the fourth quarter ended Jan. 31 were \$571.9 million compared to \$585.9 million in the prior year. Same-store sales decreased 2.9%.

Weak Holiday Sales Drag Down Tiffany

New York City (February 5, 2009) Tiffany & Co. said Wednesday that its same-store sales for the holiday season slid 24% primarily on softness at its domestic stores and warned that the performance would drag down fourth-quarter earnings.

Retail Gloom Deepens in January

New York City (February 5, 2009) As shoppers continued to focus on necessities, many of the nation's retailers posted sharp sales declines in January.

Kroger Expands Mobile-Coupon Program

San Jose, Calif. (February 4, 2009) Kroger, through a partnership with Cellfire, is making its digital grocery coupons available via mobile phone or computer.

Sport Chalet Announces Review of Strategic Alternatives

Los Angeles (February 4, 2009) Sport Chalet, Inc. announced that its board of directors is engaged in an evaluation of strategic alternatives.

1-800-FLOWERS.COM Announces Mobile Gift Center

New York City (February 4, 2009) 1-800-FLOWERS.COM has launched its Mobile Gift Center application on the Apple App Store, intended for iPhone and iTouch users.

Weis Markets' 4Q Earnings Nearly Double

Sunbury, Pa. (February 4, 2009) Weis Markets Inc., which operates supermarkets in five mid-Atlantic states, said Wednesday its fourth-quarter earnings nearly doubled as the company helped increase sales through promotions and improved efficiency.

Icelandic Retail Investment Firm Seeks Protection

London (February 4, 2009) Baugur Group HF, the indebted Iceland-based retail investment group, said Wednesday it has applied for court protection for its assets while it negotiates with creditors.

Zombies Jan. Same-Store Sales Fall 14.8%

San Francisco (February 4, 2009) Zombies said late Wednesday that its January same-store sales fell 14.8%.

Hot Topic Same-Store Sales Up in Jan.

City of Industry, Calif. (February 4, 2009) Defying the January spending freeze, Hot Topic on Wednesday reported that its January sales rose to \$44.8 million, up 8.4% from last year.

CVS Recognized for Excellence in Customer Service

Woonsocket, R.I. (February 4, 2009) CVS Caremark announced on Wednesday that the J.D. Power and Associates Certified Call Center Program has once again recognized the company's Customer Care Centers for customer satisfaction excellence.

Seattle's Best to Expand

Seattle (February 4, 2009) Seattle's Best Coffee, a division of Starbucks Corp., said it plans to expand its franchising program.

Pantry Profit Soars on Lower Oil Prices

Sanford, N.C. (February 4, 2009) The Pantry Inc. said Tuesday its fiscal first-quarter results rose sharply, mainly due to lower oil and gas prices which boosted the company's gasoline gross margin, but revenue dropped 18%.

Lowe's Canada Announces Three New Locations

Toronto (February 4, 2009) Lowe's Cos. Canada is set to open three additional locations by the end of the second quarter of fiscal 2009. Stores are under construction in South Oshawa, North Scarborough, and West Scarborough, Ontario.

Costco Same-Store Sales Fall in January

Issaquah, Wash. (February 4, 2009) Costco Wholesale Corp. said Wednesday its profit for the quarter ending in February will "substantially" miss Wall Street estimates due to poor sales and margins.

Retailers Boost January Layoffs to Highest in Seven Years

Chicago (February 4, 2009) The new year came in like a lion, as record downsizing in the retail sector helped push the number of planned job cuts announced in January to 241,749, according to a monthly tally released Wednesday by outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

Borders Cuts Six VP Jobs, 10 Director Positions

Ann Arbor, Mich. (February 4, 2009) Borders Group Inc. said Tuesday it is cutting six VP and 10 director jobs to consolidate its management and help trim expenses in a tough economy.

Pier I Cutting Jobs, Negotiating Lower Rents in Effort to Reduce Cost Structure

Dallas (February 4, 2009) Pier 1 Imports Inc. said Tuesday that it is trying to lower its store rents, will cut staff and close its distribution center in St. Charles, Ill., in an effort to trim costs.

Supermarkets Awarded Renewable Energy Construction Grants

Chestnut Hill, Mass. (February 4, 2009) WS Development announced Tuesday that Whole Foods Market at Legacy Place in Dedham, Mass., and Star Market at the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center in Chestnut Hill, Mass., have been awarded renewable energy construction grants by the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust.

Report: Fortunoff Talking to Liquidators

New York City (February 3, 2009) Fortunoff Fine Jewelry & Silverware LLC has closed its flagship Manhattan store and is in talks with companies to liquidate most of its merchandise, Bloomberg News reported.

Target to Continue Charitable Giving

Minneapolis (February 3, 2009) Target Corp. said it intends to continue giving 5% of its pre-tax profits to charity, despite the economic downturn that prompted it to cut 1,000 workers on Tuesday and to announce the closure later this year of an Arkansas distribution center.

DJM to Dispose of Circuit City Real Estate

Melville, N.Y. (February 3, 2009) DJM Realty, a Gordon Brothers Group company, announced Tuesday it has been retained to exclusively manage the disposition of all remaining Circuit City Stores Inc. real estate in the United States.

Starbucks Expands in Latin America

Mexico City (February 3, 2009) Starbucks is expanding in Latin America where its sales are increasing, Reuters reported.

Report: Week's Retail Sales Fall 3.7%

Chicago (February 3, 2009) ShopperTrak's National Retail Sales Estimate reported Tuesday that retail sales for the week ending Jan. 31 declined 3.7% as compared to the same period in 2008, while week-over-week sales fell 4% vs. the previous week ending Jan. 24.

Closings, Layoffs at Brinker

Dallas (February 3, 2009) Brinker International Inc., parent to casual-dining chains Chili's,

Maggiano's Little Italy and On The Border Mexican Grill & Cantina restaurants, confirmed news reports Monday that it laid off 155 employees last week after closing 35 locations.

Sears Holdings Names Exec

Hoffman Estates, Ill. (February 3, 2009) Sears Holdings Corp. said Tuesday it has named Timothy Kasbe as senior VP and CIO.

Christopher & Banks Eliminates 30 Jobs

Minneapolis (February 3, 2009) Christopher & Banks Corp. said late Monday it will consolidate parts of its district sales structure, eliminating about 30 manager jobs.

99 Cents Only Rethinks Texas Plan

City of Commerce, Calif. (February 3, 2009) Ninety Nine Cents Only Stores Inc., announced Tuesday it has suspended a plan to close its operations in Texas and has rejected a plan by its chairman to buy them.

Wal-Mart Foundation Gives \$5.7 Million to Green Jobs Effort

Bentonville, Ark. (February 3, 2009) The Wal-Mart Foundation announced Tuesday that it will award to the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Veterans Green Jobs grants totaling \$5.7 million to support the creation of green jobs in the United States.

Liz Claiborne to Cut 725 Jobs

New York City (February 3, 2009) Liz Claiborne Inc., which operates retail stores under brand banners such as Juicy Couture, Kate Spade and Lucky Brand, announced Tuesday that it will eliminate about 725 jobs, or 8% of its U.S. work force, as it launches a cost-cutting mission amid tightened consumer discretionary spending.

Elephant Pharm Closes Stores, to Liquidate

Berkeley, Calif. (February 3, 2009) Health-and-wellness retailer Elephant Pharm announced Tuesday that it has closed its stores and will seek liquidation under Chapter 7 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Macy's to Cut 7,000 Jobs, Centralize Operations

Cincinnati (February 2, 2009) Macy's Inc. announced Monday that it will cut 7,000 jobs (almost 4% of its work force), reduce its contributions to its employees' retirement funds, and slash its dividend to preserve cash amid the pullback in consumer spending.

Survey: Cupid Feeling Pinch of Recession

New York City (February 2, 2009) The recession is putting a dent into Valentine's Day spending. In its biannual Customer Loyalty Engagement Index, Brand Keys found that men, women and friends still intend to exchange gifts on Feb. 14, but that overall spending will be down 15% compared to last year.

Home Depot to Pay \$22 Million to HD Supply

Atlanta (February 2, 2009) HD Supply said Monday that it will receive a \$22 million payment from home-improvement retailer Home Depot Inc. for adjustments related to its August 2007 sale.

Wal-Mart Testing Hybrid Trucks, Alternative Fuels

Bentonville, Ark. (February 2, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores announced Monday it will test two new types of heavy-duty commercial hybrid trucks and two different alternatively fueled heavy-duty trucks as part of the company's efforts to build on its progress in developing a more sustainable trucking fleet.

Bharti/Wal-Mart Joint-Venture Stores to be Called BestPrice Modern Wholesale

New Delhi, India (February 2, 2009) Bharti Wal-Mart Private Limited, the joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and Wal-Mart Stores, announced that its self-service wholesale stores will be named "BestPrice Modern Wholesale."

H&M to Grow Work Force

Stockholm, Sweden (January 30, 2009) H&M said on Thursday that it plans to create between 6,000 and 7,000 jobs in 2009.

Supervalu Cuts 90 Positions

Minneapolis (January 30, 2009) Supervalu Inc. has cut 90 corporate headquarters positions.

Pep Boys to Cut 50 Employees, Costs

Philadelphia (January 30, 2009) Pep Boys - Manny, Moe & Jack on Friday said it will cut 50 employees, freeze merit pay increases and implement other spending cuts as it seeks to return to profitability.

Harris Teeter Scales Back Expansion Plans

Charlotte, N.C. (January 30, 2009) Harris Teeter said it plans to scale back on store openings and remodeling for the remainder of fiscal 2009, which ends Sept. 28.

JoS. A. Bank Clothiers Promotes Exec to Senior VP

Hampstead, Md. (January 30, 2009) JoS. A. Bank Clothiers announced that James W. Thorne has been promoted to executive VP for merchandising and chief merchandising officer, effective Feb. 1.

Cato Announces New Senior VP, Controller

Charlotte, N.C. (January 30, 2009) The Cato Corp. announced the promotion of Jeff Shock to senior VP, controller.

Moody's May Lower Some of Starbucks' Ratings

New York City (January 30, 2009) Moody's Investors Service said it might lower some of Starbucks Corp.'s ratings after the coffee chain reported weaker-than-expected earnings.

Amazon Sales Soar in 4Q

New York City (January 30, 2009) Amazon.com said that its fourth-quarter profit rose 9% amid the struggling economy.

Study Provides Insight Into Minds of Grocery Shoppers

New York City (January 30, 2009) About 52% of U.S. grocery shoppers said they plan to eat at home more often than last year, according to the American Grocery Shopper Study, released by consumer survey company BrandSpark International's Best New Product Awards.

Cabela's to Enter Montana

Billings, Mont. (January 30, 2009) Cabela's plans to open its first location in Montana this spring.

Diedrich Coffee Hires VP, Franchise Operations

Irvine, Calif. (January 30, 2009) Diedrich Coffee announced that Anthony A. Barr has joined the company as VP of its Gloria Jean's franchise operations.