

## **This Week's Top Stories in Retail** **June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

### **May retail sales up, led by auto dealers**

**Washington, D.C. (June 11, 2009)** U.S. retail sales showed their first gain in three months as the month of May received a much-needed boost from car sales.

### **Filene's auction reopens after controversy resolved**

**New York City (June 11, 2009)** A federal bankruptcy judge has cleared the way for Filene's Basement asset auction after resolving objections from two bidders.

### **Williams-Sonoma posts 1Q loss on 22% sales drop**

**San Francisco (June 11, 2009)** A 22% sales decline propelled Williams-Sonoma to a first-quarter loss, the company said Wednesday.

### **Macy's, Forever 21 purchases of Gottschalks sites approved**

**Fresno, Calif. (June 11, 2009)** A federal bankruptcy court judge has approved plans by Macy's and Forever 21 to buy 15 sites of bankrupt retailer Gottschalks, according to a report published Wednesday in *The Fresno Bee*.

### **Home Depot: Worst of housing crisis is over**

**Atlanta (June 11, 2009)** The Home Depot said Wednesday that economic indicators signal that the worst of the U.S. housing correction has passed.

### **Survey: McD's attracting Starbucks customers**

**New York City (June 11, 2009)** A survey of about 2,500 coffee-drinking consumers by Morgan Stanley & Co. found that nearly half of Starbucks heavy users said they also buy coffee at McDonald's at least once per week.

### **Neiman Marcus to cut store hours**

**New York City (June 10, 2009)** Neiman Marcus is cutting its store hours at about half of its 40 nationwide stores as its shoppers hold back on spending.

### **Destination Maternity, Sears to relaunch line**

**Philadelphia (June 10, 2009)** Destination Maternity Corp. said Wednesday it is relaunching its Two Hearts Maternity collection at Sears Holdings Corp.'s Sears and Kmart stores.

### **Gap to remodel 50 Old Navy stores**

**New York City (June 10, 2009)** Gap Inc. chairman and CEO Glenn Murphy updated investors on Wednesday about the company's top priorities, including gaining market share at its core brands in North America while continuing to grow through its online and international businesses.

### **NRF: Criminals view recession as opportunity to abuse retailers**

**Washington, D.C. (June 10, 2009)** Retailers and consumers are becoming more victimized by organized retail crime groups, according to the National Retail Federation's fifth annual Organized Retail Crime survey.

### **Kroger to expand Marketplace concept**

**Cincinnati (June 10, 2009)** Kroger has purchased a 21-acre site in Harrison, Ohio, for a stand-alone Kroger Marketplace store with an adjacent gasoline fuel center, according to the Business Courier of Cincinnati.

### **General Growth closes Alabama mall**

**Chicago (June 10, 2009)** General Growth Properties Inc. has shut the doors of its Century Plaza Mall in Birmingham, Ala., according to *The Wall Street Journal*

### **Charlotte Russe introduces interactive shopping technology**

**New York (June 9, 2009)** Charlotte Russe has introduced new interactive shopping technology to address the social-networking and shopping habits of young consumers.

### **Casual-dining pioneer Norman Brinker dies**

**New York (June 9, 2009)** Norman Brinker, a pioneer in casual dining, died Tuesday in Colorado Springs, Colo.

### **Talbots posts Q1 loss, cuts more jobs**

**Hingham, Mass. (June 9, 2009)** Talbots Inc. on Tuesday recorded a fiscal first-quarter loss amid increased charges, and said it will institute new job cuts of 20% as it looks to lower costs and streamline operations.

### **Survey: Consumer spending down in May**

**New York City (June 9, 2009)** The Deloitte Consumer Spending Index declined again in May, driven downward primarily by the housing market.

### **Survey: Barnes & Noble top bookseller**

**New York City (June 8, 2009)** For the sixth year in a row, Barnes & Noble was selected as the nation's top bookselling brand, according to the 2009 EquiTrend Brand Study conducted by Harris Interactive.

### **Talbots sells J. Jill for \$75M**

**Hingham, Mass. (June 8, 2009)** Talbots said Monday it will sell its J. Jill brand to an affiliate of San Francisco-based private-equity firm Golden Gate Capital for about \$75 million.

### **Dairy Queen adds RFID-based mobile loyalty program**

**Minneapolis (June 5, 2009)** Dairy Queen is delivering mobile coupons, rewards and other targeted through an RFID-enabled chip that connects to visitors' cellphones and PDAs.

### **Report: Jack in the Box adds kiosk technology**

**San Diego (June 5, 2009)** A Phoenix-based Jack in the Box restaurant is using kiosk technology to streamline the ordering process, according to an article in *QSR magazine*.

### **Report: In-store clinics at Walgreen, CVS add specialty services**

**Deerfield, Ill. (June 5, 2009)** In response to shoppers who choose to visit in-store clinics versus costly specialists when treating minor health conditions, Walgreens and CVS/Caremark are introducing services that address more specialized conditions, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

### **Dollar General to undertake chainwide renovations**

**Goodlettsville, Tenn. (June 5, 2009)** During Dollar General's first-quarter conference call on Tuesday, the chain's executives announced a new remodeling plan.

### **Best Buy plans to open 13 new stores**

**Richfield, Minn. (June 5, 2009)** Best Buy said Friday that it will open 13 new stores by the summer, including its first store in Wyoming and the second Best Buy store in Alaska.

### **NRF lauds bill for credit-card companies to negotiate over hidden fees**

**Washington, D.C. (June 5, 2009)** The National Retail Federation praised the introduction of a bill on Thursday that would give chains room to negotiate with Visa and MasterCard over hidden fees that could reach approximately \$400 annually per household.

### **Report: Sears settles suit over privacy data collection**

**Hoffman Estates, Ill. (June 5, 2009)** Sears Holdings has agreed to settle a suit issued by the Federal Trade Commission that accused the retailer of collecting personal data from customers without disclosing the practice, according to an article on CNBC.com.

### **Wal-Mart CEO pledges to keep customers gained during recession**

**New York City (June 5, 2009)** Wal-Mart Stores' president and CEO Mike Duke pledged at the company's annual shareholders meeting Friday that the chain will build on its success by keeping the new customers it has attracted during the recession even when the economy improves.