

This Week's Top Stories in Retail **June 5th, 2009**

Minnesota judge approves Wal-Mart settlement

Hastings, Minn. (June 4, 2009) A judge in Minnesota has given final approval to a settlement of a wages-and-hours lawsuit against Wal-Mart Stores that could be worth up to \$54.25 million.

Department stores off in May, but most beat Street

New York City (June 4, 2009) J.C. Penney Co. said Thursday that its comparable-store sales decreased 8.2% in May, but beat expectations.

Wal-Mart to add 22,000 jobs in '09

Bentonville, Ark. (June 4, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores said Wednesday it expects to hire about 22,000 people for new positions in its U.S. stores in 2009.

Discounters mostly miss mark in May

New York City (June 4, 2009) Costco Wholesale, Target Stores, and BJ's Wholesale Club all missed the mark in May, raising some analysts' concerns that a retail turnaround has yet to take firm hold.

May comes up short for most specialty retailers

New York City (June 4, 2009) May proved to be a tough month for many U.S. specialty apparel retailers, as sales results largely fell short of analysts' estimates.

Collective Brands earnings jump in Q1

Topeka, Kan. (June 3, 2009) Footwear retailer Collective Brands reported that its net earnings for the first quarter were \$38.0 million, compared with \$19.7 million in the same period last year.

Jos. A. Bank income up in Q1

Hampstead, Md. (June 3, 2009) Jos. A. Bank Clothiers reported late Tuesday that net income for the first fiscal quarter ended May 2 was \$11.5 million, an increase from \$9.8 million for the same period a year ago.

Report: NCR moves corporate HQ to Ga.

Dayton, Ohio (June 3, 2009) Technology vendor NCR said late Tuesday that it plans to move its headquarters to Georgia, where it will also build a new manufacturing facility, according to an article on CNNMoney.com.

Williams-Sonoma curbs Q1 loss

San Francisco (June 3, 2009) Williams-Sonoma credited lower inventory and reduced spending for a lower-than-expected quarterly loss of \$18.7 million for the first fiscal quarter ended May 3, compared with a profit of \$10.4 million for the same period a year ago.

Report: Court reverses \$100M Starbucks barista award

Los Angeles (June 3, 2009) Just over a year after winning a class-action suit that rewarded Starbucks baristas with tips lost through the company's violation of state labor laws, a California appeals court on Tuesday reversed the decision in favor of the coffee giant, according to an article on CNBC.com.

Report: Wal-Mart pressured to unionize

Bentonville, Ark. (June 3, 2009) The United Food and Commercial Workers Union held a rally at

Wal-Mart's Landover Hills, Md., store Tuesday in support of creating a union and getting better benefits for workers at the retail behemoth, according to an article in *The Washington Post*.

Baskin-Robbins plans new stores in Ga.

Canton, Mass. (June 3, 2009) Baskin-Robbins said Wednesday that is adding 30 new franchised locations that will open across Georgia in Albany, Augusta and Savannah.

Report: Target to partner with DailyCandy.com

Minneapolis (June 2, 2009) Target is gearing up to partner with DailyCandy.com, the e-mail newsletter and Web site owned by cable operator Comcast that covers fashion and culture for a mostly female audience, according to a report in The Wall Street Journal.

Report: Banks sue former Kmart CEO, alleging unpaid loans

Pontiac, Mich. (June 2, 2009) Former Kmart Corp. chairman and CEO Joseph Antonini is being sued by five banks accusing him of defaulting on more than \$2.3 million in loans and promissory notes, according to the Associated Press.

Hhgregg Q4 profit up 34%

Indianapolis (June 2, 2009) Regional electronics retailer Hhgregg said Tuesday it posted a 34% higher fiscal fourth-quarter profit as sales rose due to new store openings and increased market share.

NRF: Father's Day spending expected to be down

Washington, D.C. (June 2, 2009) Americans are expected to spend an average of \$90.89 on gifts for Father's Day, down slightly from \$94.54 last year, according to the National Retail Federation's 2009 Father's Day Consumer Intentions and Actions Survey, conducted by BIGresearch.

GE Capital lends \$400M to Sears

Norwalk, Conn. (June 2, 2009) General Electric's finance arm, GE Capital, said Tuesday it helped lend \$4 billion to Sears Holdings Corp. to provide working capital.

Jury sides with SEC in Kmart case

Minneapolis (June 2, 2009) The former head of Kmart Corp., Charles Conaway, who told jurors he was hired to save the venerable retailer, was found liable Monday for misleading investors about company finances before a bankruptcy filing in 2002, according to the Associated Press.

Walgreen May same-store sales up 1%

Deerfield, Ill. (June 2, 2009) Walgreen Co. said Tuesday its same-store sales rose 1% in May, helped by a rise in pharmacy sales.

CVS plans DC in N.Y. southern tier

Albany, N.Y. (June 2, 2009) CVS/pharmacy plans to open a regional distribution center near Elmira, N.Y., by 2011.

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Court approves \$85 million settlement in Wal-Mart wage disputes

New York City (June 1, 2009) Wal-Mart Stores has won preliminary court approval to pay as much as \$85 million to settle 30 lawsuits involving claims the company didn't pay employees for all hours worked, according to *Bloomberg News*.

New CEO for Boston Market

Golden, Colo. (June 1, 2009) Boston Market Corp. has a new CEO. The chain appointed F. Lane Cardwell Jr. to the position, effective Friday.

Door Store files for bankruptcy

Secaucus, N.J. (June 1, 2009) Furniture retailer The Door Store said late Friday that it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Atlas Oil to acquire 33 BP sites

Taylor, Mich. (June 1, 2009) Atlas Oil Co. announced Monday it will acquire 33 retail gas stations/convenience stores in southwest Chicago and surrounds from BP Products North America.

Gloria Jean's acquisition date set for June 12

Irvine, Calif. (June 1, 2009) Diedrich Coffee and Praise International North America announced Friday that they have set June 12, as the closing date for the sale of Diedrich Coffee's Gloria Jean's Coffees domestic franchise operations.

Home Depot stages YouTube response to protesters

Atlanta (June 1, 2009) In response to a protest staged outside the company's annual meeting on Thursday, The Home Depot posted a video on YouTube telling its side of the story, according to the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.

Design firm Callison acquires RYA

Dallas (June 1, 2009) Retail design firm Callison announced Monday it has acquired RYA Design Consultancy, an architecture and design firm headquartered in Dallas.

Oilily files for bankruptcy

Amsterdam (May 29, 2009) Dutch apparel brand Oilily filed for bankruptcy protection on Friday for its U.S. division, Oilily USA, and has closed its store on Manhattan's Madison Ave.

Anchor Blue files Chapter 11

New York City (May 29, 2009) Anchor Blue Retail Group filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Thursday.

Charming Shoppes pursues rent reductions

Bensalem, Pa. (May 29, 2009) In its quest to further slash operating costs and rebuild revenue, Charming Shoppes is focused on getting rent reductions from existing landlords, *GlobeSt.com* reported.

Report: Starbucks demands 25% rent reductions

Seattle (May 29, 2009) Starbucks is struggling to reduce rent levels, and is demanding that some of its U.S. landlords reduce lease rates by 25%, according to *Bloomberg.com*.

REI opens new store in Richmond, Va.

Seattle (May 29, 2009) Recreational Equipment Inc. said Friday that it plans to open a new store in Richmond, Va., by November.

Kroger plans to open two prototype stores in Texas

Cincinnati (May 29, 2009) The Kroger Co. is preparing to open two new concept prototype stores, the chain's two largest units to date, in the Houston marketplace, the *Houston Business Journal* reported.

Rita's Ice enters NYC

Treviso, Pa. (May 29, 2009) Rita's Italian Ice said Friday that it will enter the New York City market.

Survey: U.S. consumer mood highest in eight months

New York City (May 29, 2009) The U.S. government's stimulus programs are working to put more money in Americans' pockets, and this is helping consumer confidence to slowly rebound, according to The Reuters/University of Michigan Survey of Consumers.

Tiffany posts lower-than-expected profit

New York (May 29, 2009) As shoppers continue to shy away from jewelry purchases, Tiffany & Co. reported a lower quarterly profit than it predicted, but it didn't waver on its full-year forecast.

J. Crew Q1 profits dip

New York (May 29, 2009) J. Crew Group on Thursday reported a drop in its first-quarter profit largely due to charges and margins, but the results topped Wall Street forecasts. The company earned \$20.4 million, including the impact of severance and asset impairment charges, for the first quarter ended May 2, a drop from \$30.5 million a year ago.