

RETAIL VENTURES, INC. REPORTS DECEMBER RETAIL SALES

Columbus, Ohio --/ January 6/PR Newswire/-- Retail Ventures, Inc. (NYSE:RVI) announced today total sales for the five weeks ended January 1, 2005, increased 6.1% to \$364.4 million from \$343.6 million for the five weeks ended January 3, 2004. The company's same store sales decreased 0.7% for the five week period.

Total sales for the forty-eight weeks ended January 1, 2005, increased 5.2% to \$2.60 billion from \$2.47 billion for the forty-eight weeks ended January 3, 2004. The company's same store sales decreased 1.2% for the forty-eight week period.

Retail sales statistics are as follows:

	Five weeks ended (\$ in thousands)			
	January 1, 2005		January 3, 2004	
	\$	%	\$	%
Total Sales				
Value City Department Stores	\$219,461	60.2	\$224,839	65.5
DSW Shoe Warehouse	92,266	25.3	75,373	21.9
Filene's Basement	52,637	14.5	43,354	12.6
	\$364,364	100.0	\$343,566	100.0

Comparable Sales Percentage				
Value City Department Stores		(2.4)%		(0.3)%
DSW Shoe Warehouse		3.9 %		13.9 %
Filene's Basement		0.9 %		9.0 %
		(0.7)%		3.0 %

	Forty-eight weeks ended (\$ in thousands)			
	January 1, 2005		January 3, 2004	
	\$	%	\$	%
Total Sales				
Value City Department Stores	\$1,366,788	52.5	\$1,439,702	58.3
DSW Shoe Warehouse	880,451	33.9	730,026	29.5
Filene's Basement	353,759	13.6	301,612	12.2
	\$2,600,998	100.0	\$2,471,340	100.0

Comparable Sales Percentage				
Value City Department Stores		(5.0)%		(0.4)%
DSW Shoe Warehouse		4.4 %		5.5 %
Filene's Basement		5.4 %		2.3 %
		(1.2)%		1.3 %

Retail Ventures, Inc. is a leading off-price retailer currently operating 116 Value City Department Stores in the Midwest, mid-Atlantic and southeastern U.S., 26 Filene's Basement Stores in the Northeast and 172 better-branded DSW Shoe Warehouse Stores in major metropolitan areas throughout the country.

SOURCE: Retail Ventures, Inc.

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