

**RETAIL VENTURES, INC. REPORTS COMPARABLE STORE SALES INCREASE OF 3.2%
ON DECEMBER RETAIL SALES OF \$386.8 MILLION**

Columbus, Ohio --/ January 5/PR Newswire/-- Retail Ventures, Inc. (NYSE:RVI) announced today total sales for the five weeks ended December 31, 2005 increased 6.2% to \$386.8 million from \$364.4 million for the five weeks ended January 1, 2005. The company's same store sales increased 3.2% for the five week period.

Total sales for the forty-eight weeks ended December 31 2005 increased 6.1% to \$2.76 billion from \$2.60 billion for the forty-eight weeks ended January 1, 2005. The company's same store sales increased 0.2% for the forty-eight week period.

Retail sales statistics are as follows:

	<u>Five weeks ended (\$ in thousands)</u>			
	<u>December 31, 2005</u>		<u>January 1, 2005*</u>	
	\$	%	\$	%
Total Sales				
Value City Department Stores	\$217,806	56.3	\$219,794	60.3
DSW	114,298	29.6	94,717	26.0
Filene's Basement	54,695	14.1	49,853	13.7
	\$386,799	100.0	\$364,364	100.0

Comparable Sales Percentage				
Value City Department Stores		(0.2)%		(2.4)%
DSW		9.9 %		4.0 %
Filene's Basement		7.8 %		0.6 %
		3.2 %		(0.7)%

	<u>Forty-eight weeks ended (\$ in thousands)</u>			
	<u>December 31, 2005</u>		<u>January 1, 2005*</u>	
	\$	%	\$	%
Total Sales				
Value City Department Stores	\$1,317,221	47.7	\$1,370,497	52.7
DSW	1,072,485	38.9	902,921	34.7
Filene's Basement	370,518	13.4	327,580	12.6
	\$2,760,224	100.0	\$2,600,998	100.0

Comparable Sales Percentage				
Value City Department Stores		(3.3)%		(5.0)%
DSW		5.1 %		4.5 %
Filene's Basement		3.1 %		5.1 %
		0.2%		(1.2)%

*Business segments were realigned at the beginning of fiscal 2005 to reflect how the company establishes strategic goals and manages the business. The realignment resulted in the Filene's Basement shoe business being included within the DSW segment. The fiscal 2004 presentation has been restated to conform with this realignment.

Retail Ventures, Inc. is a leading off-price retailer currently operating 114 Value City Department Stores in the Midwest, mid-Atlantic and southeastern U.S., 27 Filene's Basement Stores in the Northeast and 199 better-branded DSW stores in major metropolitan areas throughout the country. DSW also supplies, under supply arrangements, to 213 locations for other non-related retailers in the United States.

SOURCE: Retail Ventures, Inc.

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