

**RETAIL VENTURES, INC. REPORTS COMPARABLE STORE SALES INCREASE OF 3.5%
ON FIRST QUARTER RETAIL SALES OF \$721.5 MILLION**

Columbus, Ohio --/ May 4th/PR Newswire/-- Retail Ventures, Inc. (NYSE:RVI) announced today total sales for the thirteen weeks ended April 29, 2006 increased 6.1% to \$721.5 million from \$680.0 million for the thirteen weeks ended April 30, 2005. The company's same store sales increased 3.5% for the thirteen week period.

Retail sales statistics are as follows:

	<u>Thirteen weeks ended (\$ in thousands)</u>			
	<u>April 29, 2006</u>		<u>April 30, 2005</u>	
	\$	%	\$	%
Total Sales				
Value City Department Stores	\$314,427	43.6	\$311,455	45.8
DSW	316,487	43.9	281,806	41.4
Filene's Basement	90,599	12.5	86,784	12.8
	<u>\$721,513</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>\$680,045</u>	<u>100.0</u>
Comparable Sales Percentage				
Value City Department Stores		2.5%		(7.9)%
DSW		4.2%		4.4 %
Filene's Basement		4.6%		2.0 %
		<u>3.5%</u>		<u>(2.5)%</u>

Retail Ventures, Inc. is a leading off-price retailer currently operating 113 Value City Department Stores in the Midwest, mid-Atlantic and southeastern U.S., 26 Filene's Basement Stores in the Northeast and 204 better-branded DSW stores in major metropolitan areas throughout the country. DSW also supplies, under supply arrangements, to 216 locations for other non-related retailers in the United States.

SOURCE: Retail Ventures, Inc.

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