



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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(ATR would like to bring this disturbing AP report to your attention. This development alone is a more than sufficient reason for passing a National Sales Tax Holiday, and passing it NOW. ATR will take any vote concerning the NSTH under consideration when we calculate our annual congressional ratings. A vote in favor will be regarded as a vote for the taxpayers.)

Retailers Report Weakest November Since 1990

Associated Press—Friday, December 7, 2001

The outlook for the holiday season grew dimmer yesterday as major retailers, bruised by unseasonable weather and a sluggish job market, reported the weakest November results since 1990.

Discounters and other "value" stores, particularly Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Kohl's Corp. and TJX Cos., had the strongest sales. Meanwhile, mall-based merchants, especially apparel and department stores, suffered amid piles of marked-down coats and sweaters.

Michael Niemira, vice president of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., cut his 4 percent holiday forecast in half after seeing the numbers.

The bank's index of 79 retailers was up 2 percent, below the 3 percent forecast. The biggest culprit, Niemira said, was Gap Inc.

Gap, whose business has dropped precipitously, saw sales at stores open at least a year plummet 25 percent, worse than the 17 percent forecast.

Federated Department Stores Inc., parent to Bloomingdale's and Macy's, met expectations but expects December sales to be down.

Even Wal-Mart, with a 4.3 percent gain, has been discounting heavily, hurting its bottom line.

Kmart Corp. reported a 2.6 percent decline.