



FTI Consulting Projects A 2.9% Increase in Holiday Season Sales in Its 2004 Retail Report

November 22, 2004

Kevin Regan, Senior Managing Director, Available For Comment Regarding Prospects for the 2004 Holiday Shopping Season

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Kevin Regan, a retail expert and senior managing director at FTI Consulting, is available to comment on FTI's 2004 Retail Report, which forecasts a 2.9% increase in 2004 holiday shopping sales compared to a 4.8% increase in 2003. Among other factors, the projected increase for 2004 was affected by the following:

Higher energy prices, which FTI projects will shave 2.5% from this year's increase

Two extra shopping days in 2004, which FTI projects will add 0.5%

In addition to discussing the holiday forecast, Mr. Regan is available for comment on the following topics relating to the retail sector and the holiday shopping season:

The persistence of a "Two Americas" theme among retailers in 2004: Why most upscale retailers expect a banner holiday season to top off an already prosperous year while many lower to middle end retailers have far more modest expectations.

The holiday-themed store gift card phenomenon and its confounding impact on the measurement of holiday sales.

FTI's interpretation of the Kmart-Sears merger.

About FTI Consulting

FTI is the premier provider of corporate finance/restructuring, forensic and litigation consulting, and economic consulting. Strategically located in 24 of the major U.S. cities and London, FTI's total workforce of approximately 1,000 employees includes numerous PhDs, MBAs, CPAs, CIRAs and CFEs who are committed to delivering the highest level of service to clients. These clients include the world's largest corporations, financial institutions and law firms in matters involving financial and operational improvement and major litigation. FTI is on the Internet at www.fticonsulting.com.

To arrange an interview or to obtain a copy of the FTI Consulting 2004 Retail Report, please contact:

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