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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **November Retail Hiring Highest Since 2012**

## **NOVEMBER RETAIL EMPLOYMENT GAINS UP 26 PERCENT**

**CHICAGO, December 14, 2017** – Retail employment in November grew 26 percent to 451,600, the highest November total since 2012, when 485,400 jobs were added, according to an analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data by global outplacement and executive coaching firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

October job gains were revised higher to 146,400 from 136,700, down 2 percent from the 149,400 retail jobs added in October of last year. Retailers have added a total of 598,000 jobs this year, a 17.5 percent increase from the 508,800 retail jobs added through this point last year.

These are the highest gains in October and November since 2013, when 602,700 jobs were added.

“The November gains indicate that consumer demand at brick-and-mortar stores is high enough that retailers need to stock their stores for the holidays. This is good news for traditional retailers looking to get back in the black before the new year, and execute a new strategy to compete with online shopping in 2018,” said John Challenger, Chief Executive Officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

Meanwhile, Challenger has tracked 7,670 announced store closures since January.

**2017 Announced Store Closures  
January-November**

	<b>Stores Closed</b>	<b>Job Cuts</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Macy's	68	10,000	Restructuring
The Limited	250	4,000	Bankruptcy
American Apparel	110	3,457	Bankruptcy
Wet Seal	171	3,000	Bankruptcy
Lowe's		2,400	Cost-Cutting
Sears/Kmart	421	3,415	Cost-Cutting
Abercrombie & Fitch	60	150	Cost-Cutting
hhgregg	220	5,000	Bankruptcy
JCPenney	138	5,500	Restructuring
Family Christian Stores	240	1,300	Closing
L.L.Bean		900	Cost-Cutting
Payless	800		Bankruptcy
RadioShack	1,000		Bankruptcy
Bebe	190	960	Restructuring
BCBG Max Azria	120	492	Bankruptcy
Dollar Express	330	2,800	Acquisition/Merger
Rue 21	400		Bankruptcy
Central Grocers	31	1,900	Bankruptcy
Winn-Dixie	20		Restructuring
Marsh Supermarkets	18	1,535	Bankruptcy
Michael Kors Holdings	125		Cost-Cutting
Ascena Retail Group	650		Cost-Cutting
GameStop	100		Cost-Cutting
The Children's Place	300		Cost-Cutting
Gymboree	350		Bankruptcy
True Religion	27		Bankruptcy
Alfred Angelo	60		Bankruptcy
Teavana	379		Closing
Gap Inc.	200		Restructuring
Benny's	31	715	Closing
Neiman Marcus Last Call	10		Restructuring
Perfumania	64		Bankruptcy
Walgreens	600		Acquisition/Merger
The Bon-Ton Stores	40		Cost-Cutting
J.Crew	50		Cost-Cutting
Charming Charlie LLC	97		Bankruptcy

Source: Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. ©

“December typically sees the smallest number of retail job gains. The ongoing store closures could signal smaller-than-average December hiring,” said Challenger.

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December 14, 2017

	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>2005</b>	122,300	392,700	196,600	<b>711,600</b>	<b>0.20%</b>
<b>2006</b>	150,600	427,300	169,000	<b>746,900</b>	<b>5.00%</b>
<b>2007</b>	87,900	465,400	167,600	<b>720,900</b>	<b>-3.50%</b>
<b>2008</b>	38,600	213,600	72,700	<b>324,900</b>	<b>-54.90%</b>
<b>2009</b>	45,100	317,100	133,600	<b>495,800</b>	<b>52.60%</b>
<b>2010</b>	149,800	339,200	158,600	<b>647,600</b>	<b>30.60%</b>
<b>2011</b>	134,200	390,600	154,500	<b>679,300</b>	<b>4.90%</b>
<b>2012</b>	138,700	485,400	99,600	<b>723,700</b>	<b>6.50%</b>
<b>2013</b>	159,600	443,100	184,100	<b>786,800</b>	<b>8.70%</b>
<b>2014</b>	182,800	412,200	154,100	<b>749,100</b>	<b>-4.80%</b>
<b>2015</b>	183,300	399,300	125,700	<b>708,800</b>	<b>-5.38%</b>
<b>2016</b>	149,400	359,400	132,200	<b>641,000</b>	<b>-9.57%</b>
<b>2017</b>	146,400	451,600	??	<b>??</b>	
<b>AVERAGE*</b>	<b>129,154</b>	<b>387,108</b>	<b>145,692</b>	<b>661,367</b>	

*\*Since 2005*

**Source: Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. © with data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics**



<b>Company</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Amazon	50,000	70,000	80,000	100,000	120,000	120,000
Target	88,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	77,500	100,000
UPS	55,000	55,000	95,000	95,000	95,000	95,000
Macy's	80,000	83,000	86,000	85,000	83,000	87,000
FedEx (Transportation)	20,000	20,000	50,000	55,000	50,000	50,000
JCPenney	40,000	35,000	35,000	30,000	40,000	40,000
Michaels						15,000
Kroger						14,000
Nordstrom				11,800	11,400	13,650
Toys"R"Us	45,000	45,000	45,000	40,000		12,500
Burlington Stores						12,000
The Bon-Ton Stores					13,500	10,000
1-800-Flowers						8,000
McDonald's						3,179
Williams-Sonoma						2,000
Fanatics						2,000
Plow & Hearth						400
Opryland					300	400
Kohl's	52,700	53,000	76,970	79,160	69,000	
Walmart	50,000	55,000	60,000	60,000		
GameStop	17,000	17,000	25,000	28,000		
Sports Authority	N/A	N/A	N/A	3,500		
Best Buy	14,000	N/A	N/A			
Meijer	12,000	9,000	10,000			
Radial					20,000	23,000
Party City					35,000	
Gap			63,000			
Versant Supply Chain					2,000	
L Brands					4,000	
Hickory Farms (Food)	5,225	6,000				
<b>Total</b>	<b>528,925</b>	<b>518,000</b>	<b>695,970</b>	<b>657,460</b>	<b>620,700</b>	<b>608,129</b>

Source: Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. ©