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## ***Brown's Rants***

### **Week Ending October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Headlines of the week? The NRF predicts greatest holiday sales season gains ever, despite supply chain challenges and inflationary pressures. Consumers (not all) are sitting on roughly \$5 trillion more in their bank accounts today than in pre-pandemic February 2020... that can buy a lot of candy corn. Halloween candy sales are skyrocketing. Dentists get ready, and retail landlords get ready for more dental and medical tenants, in general. Consumer confidence is also growing as Delta variant wanes. Debate continues over inflation; supply chain will not move from just-in-time to just-in-case quickly... but that's not the only pressure on pricing... Median hourly wage for retail salespeople jumped 19.8% annually according to latest data from BLS. Retail and restaurant workers forced into frontline work, 13 years of no minimum wage increases and thirty of (adjusted for inflation) flat or decreasing wages... combined with having to be enforcers of Covid mitigation policies and dealing with crazy customers... we just may be dealing with a bigger problem than the removal of extra UI benefits can remedy quickly. It's a perfect storm of long-term and immediate pressures that will take some time to be resolved. Which is why QSRs are ramping up their investment in robot burger flippers, more retailers are adding self-checkout aisles and AI-driven customer service bots are increasingly the norm.

Back to inflation... some of the pressures are clearly transitory but, not all... and inflation has a ripple effect that creates its own upward pressures. Wage growth = price growth = dollar stores becoming \$1.25 stores, rising prices across the board and inflationary pressures that will remain even when the Port of L.A. doesn't have 70+ ships backlogged in the harbor and the trip from Shenzhen to Long Beach isn't taking 150% more time. The transition of retail continues; coworking space in suburban malls, explosion of store-within-store concepts, densification via mixed-use redevelopment ramping up across retail assets. IPO activity is exploding—heavy with digital natives hoping to follow the successful Warby Parker omnichannel model of building eCom infrastructure first. And then blowing it up with stores that act as embassies of the brand, low-cost return hubs for online sales... and, yes... some of us still like shopping in person. We aren't just seeing digital natives going public, but also traditional players... including some that have either endured BKs in the last 24 months or that reached the edge... have bounced back hard. Americans with full wallets went shopping both with money they saved in 2020 by not spending on services, but also from the disparate impacts of the crisis and a whole lot of government stimulus. And... apparently, there is a former Toys R Us in Sunnyvale that is haunted... but not by a giraffe ghost. See you next week,

Garrick

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# Top 10

## Stories of the Week

- 1) [NRF Predicts Highest Holiday Sales on Record](#)  
Chain Store Age  
10/27
- 2) [Coworking Jumps on Suburban Retail Bandwagon](#)  
ICSC  
10/27
- 3) [Consumer Confidence Rises in October](#)  
Chain Store Age  
10/26
- 4) [Price Hikes Expected to Propel Grocery Sales Growth](#)  
Supermarket News  
10/26
- 5) [Halloween Candy Spending Surges as More People Plan to Celebrate This Year](#)  
Fox29  
10/26
- 6) [Boo! Six Stories of Retail Hauntings](#)  
Retail Dive  
10/25
- 7) [How the Supply Chain Broke and Why it Won't be Fixed Anytime Soon](#)  
New York Times  
10/22
- 8) [Retail Rebounding: Commercial Properties Transition to new Formats as Retailers Adapt to Post-Pandemic Business Models](#)  
Milwaukee Business Journal  
10/22
- 9) [Restaurants Prep for Long-term Labor Crunch by Turning to Robots](#)  
CNBC  
10/22
- 10) [eCommerce to Account for 20% of US Grocery Market by 2026](#)  
Supermarket News  
10/22

# Economic Headlines

## Stories of the Week

- 1) [Holiday Shopping Looks Merry for Some, not all: Deloitte](#)  
Luxury Daily  
10/26
- 2) [Is the Customer Always Right? Rude Shoppers Could be Fueling Labor Shortage](#)  
NBC DFW  
10/26
- 3) [Mystical Hold of 'Transitory Inflation' Tempts Huge Fed Error](#)  
Bloomberg  
10/25
- 4) [Even if Retail Sales Slow Drastically During the Holidays, They'll Still be Stellar](#)  
Retail Dive  
10/25
- 5) [Business Economists Less Optimistic About Next Year's Growth](#)  
New Orleans  
10/25
- 6) [Holiday eCom Sales Will See Double-Digit Growth](#)  
Business Insider/eMarketer  
10/22

# Property Trends

## Stories of the Week

- 1) [Strip Center Rebound Could be Stifled by Inflation, Supply Chain Disruptions, Labor Shortages](#)  
Globe Street  
10/25
- 2) [This North Texas Retail and Entertainment Development Was Named the Most Innovative in the World](#)  
Dallas Morning News  
10/25
- 3) [Upscale NYC Shops Ditch Old Uptown for Chic New Spaces](#)  
New York Post  
10/25
- 4) [Haute Rent: What Luxury Retailers Pay in Miami's Design District](#)  
The Real Deal  
10/22

# Retail Headlines

## Stories of the Week

- 1) [IKEA Opening Two New Planning Studios in Los Angeles](#)  
Cision PR Newswire  
10/28
- 2) [Allbirds Opens First Store in Denver](#)  
Retail Dive  
10/26
- 3) [Bob's Discount Furniture Takes Vacant Box in Folsom, CA](#)  
Sacramento Business Journal  
10/26
- 4) [JC Penney Names Levi Strauss Vet as New CEO](#)  
Chain Store Age  
10/26
- 5) [New Work-From-Home "Staples Connect" Concept Opening in Los Angeles](#)  
Los Angeles Daily News  
10/26
- 6) [Shell to Acquire 248 C-Stores in Texas](#)  
CSP Daily News  
10/26
- 7) [Target to Open 136k SF Store at Valley Ranch Town Center in Houston](#)  
Shopping Center Business  
10/25
- 8) [Target Returns to Detroit with New Small Format Store in Midtown](#)  
Detroit News  
10/25
- 9) [Miniso: New Store Openings and New Sub-Brand in the Spotlight](#)  
Seeking Alpha  
10/25
- 10) [Western Brand Tecovas Sees Growth Spurred by Stores, Brand Experience and Culture](#)  
TotalRetail Talks  
10/25
- 11) [TD Bank Sees Strong Market in Jacksonville](#)  
Jacksonville Daily Record  
10/25
- 12) [New David Bowie Popup Opens in London and NYC](#)  
New York Post  
10/24



- 13) [The Brands You'll Find at the New JCPenney Beauty Concept Will Surprise You](#)  
Dallas Morning News  
10/22
- 14) [Miami Sweet Pop-Up Opens at Aventura Mall](#)  
Attractions Magazine  
10/22
- 15) [The Amazon of Wine, Total Wine, Opens Two New Detroit Area Stores](#)  
Deadline Detroit  
10/22
- 16) [No, Target is NOT Closing its San Francisco Metreon Store on Mission Street](#)  
San Francisco Chronicle  
10/22



## Grocery Headlines

### *Stories of the Week*

- 1) [Independent Grocery Sales Increased 17%](#)  
Supermarket News  
10/27
- 2) [New H-E-B Opening in Austin Neighborhood](#)  
KVUE  
10/27
- 3) [Fresh Thyme Market to Open New Concept Store in St. Louis](#)  
Supermarket News  
10/26
- 4) [These 6 Beloved Grocery Chains Are Opening New Locations Soon](#)  
Eat This, Not That!  
10/25

# Restaurant News

## Stories of the Week

- 1) [Will High Food Costs Cost Restaurants Business?](#)  
Retail Wire  
10/27
- 2) [Third Fastest Growing Food Chain is... Jersey Mike's](#)  
NJ Biz  
10/27
- 3) [Sweetgreen Files IPO; Plans to Double Footprint](#)  
Chain Store Age  
10/26
- 4) [Ghost Kitchen Plater C3 Opens Its First Brick-and-Mortar Location in Manhattan](#)  
Restaurant Dive  
10/26
- 5) [Downtown Milwaukee Food Hall Gets Investment from Brewers and Packers Stars](#)  
Milwaukee Business Journal  
10/25
- 6) [Grand Opening Date Set for Knoxville Food Hall](#)  
WATE.com  
10/25
- 7) [Fast Food Price Hikes Keep Coming](#)  
TheStreet  
10/25
- 8) [Ethnic Food Hall, New Apartment Block Add to National City's Urban Renaissance](#)  
Patch San Diego  
10/24
- 9) [Brooklyn Dumpling Shop Continues Rapid Southern Expansion](#)  
Nation's Restaurant News  
10/22

# REITs, Landlord & Development

## Stories of the Week

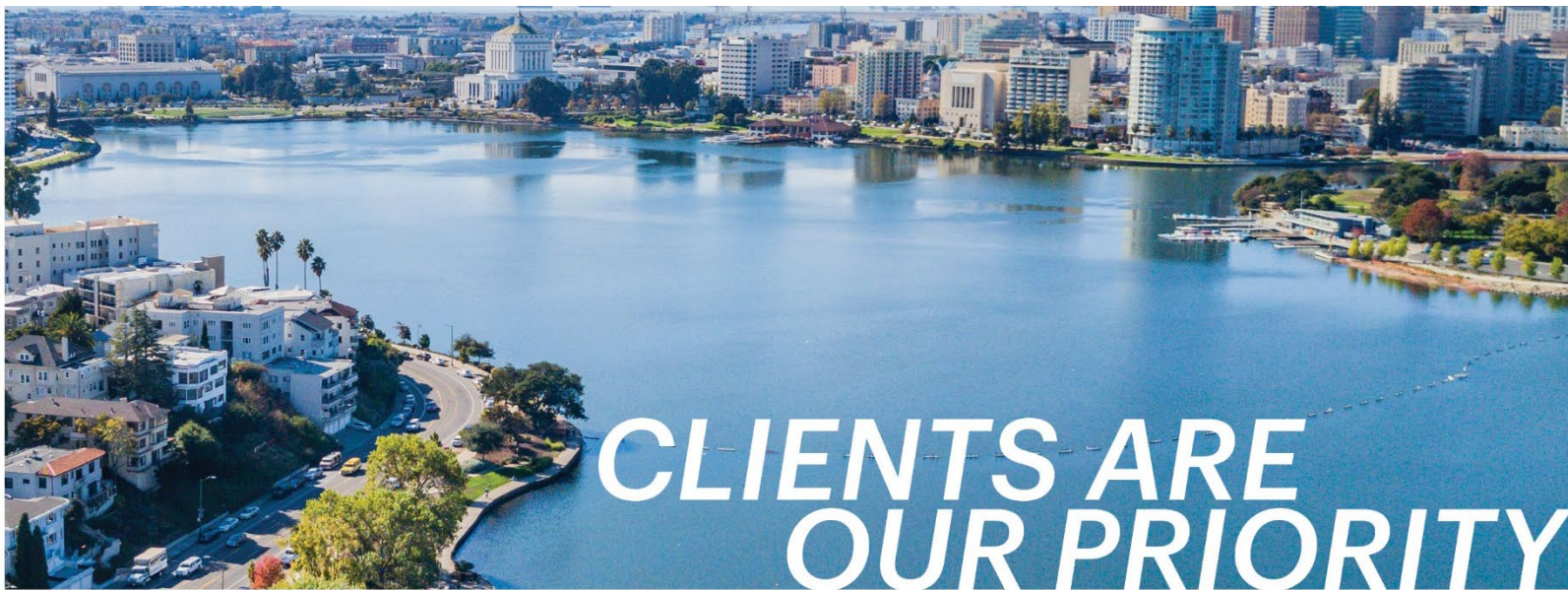
- 1) [CMBS Retail Comeback](#)  
Costar  
10/28/2021
- 2) [CRE Has Biggest Ever Sales Quarter](#)  
The Real Deal  
10/26
- 3) [Former Iverson Mall in Suburban Maryland Likely to be Sold After Default](#)  
Washington Business Journal  
10/26
- 4) [Under Water: Values on Dozens of US Malls Slashed by 70% During Pandemic](#)  
Marketwatch  
10/23
- 5) [Kite and RPAI Merge to Become Power in Open-Air Centers](#)  
Chain Store Age  
10/22
- 6) [Washington Prime Exits Bankruptcy](#)  
Retail Dive  
10/22

# eCommerce / Omnichannel / Retail Tech

## Stories of the Week

- 1) [Livestream Shopping Could be Future of Retail](#)  
Yahoo! Money  
10/26
- 2) [Covid-19 Has Given Rise to Mass Chatbot Adoption in the Retail Space](#)  
TotalRetail  
10/25
- 3) [Google's Wing, Walgreens to Test Drone Delivery in Dallas Suburb](#)  
Costar  
10/24
- 4) [Omnichannel Fulfillment: Next Big Thing in eCommerce](#)  
Financial Express  
10/24
- 5) [Check Out This Week's Coolest Retail Technology Reveals](#)  
Retail Tech Innovation Hub  
10/22





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## SERVICES

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- ✓ Build Out Management
- ✓ Development Services



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