



CONTACTS

James K. Pedderson, Director of Public Relations
Office: 312-422-5078
Mobile: 847-567-1463
jamespedderson@challengergray.com

Colleen Madden, Media Relations Manager
Office: 312-422-5074
colleenmadden@challengergray.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October Sees Record Breaking Hiring **RETAILERS ADD MORE THAN 200,000; MOST OCTOBER JOB GAINS EVER RECORDED**

CHICAGO, November 17, 2015 – Holiday hiring got off to its strongest start ever last month, as retailers added more than 200,000 new workers in October. However, the record pace is not expected to continue into November and December, according to global outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc.

The number of Americans employed in the retail industry increased by 214,500 in October. That represents the largest number of retail jobs ever added in October, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics data going back to 1939.

The October employment gains in retail were 16 percent higher than a year ago, when 185,700 workers were added to these payrolls.

Strong hiring in October does not necessarily signal an overall increase in holiday hiring. Last year's 185,700 retail job gains in October represented a record high at the time, but employment gains over the entire the three-month holiday hiring period ended up lower than 2013 levels.

Last year, retail employment increased by 755,000 from October 1 through December 31. That was down 4.0 percent from the previous year, when the holiday period saw employment grow by 786,800.

“The last couple of years has seen strong retail employment gains in October, followed by weaker gains in November. The data suggest that retailers have moved up their hiring schedule in recent years, adding more workers in late September and early October,” said John A. Challenger, chief executive officer of Challenger, Gray & Christmas.

Since reaching a recent high of 485,400 retail job gains in November 2012, hiring has slowed each subsequent year. In 2013, the number of hires dropped 9.0 percent to 443,100. In 2014, November job gains in retail fell by another 7.0 percent to 414,300.

As of October, a total of 15,797,200 Americans were employed in the retail industry.

“While the bulk of the seasonal hiring has already been completed, it is never too late to find openings. Many of the areas adding seasonal workers, including retail, food service and shipping companies, tend to have high turnover. Because these employers are adding so many workers so quickly, the odds of failed hires increases significantly. They just don’t have the time to make sure the applicant is the best fit for the job. As a result, job seekers may be able to continue to find opportunities well into the holiday season,” said Challenger.

“Job seekers should also look beyond the retail industry. The obvious candidates are shipping companies. UPS and FedEx plan to add about 150,000 seasonal employees between them.

“Additionally, a stronger economy is likely to translate into increased consumer and business spending on holiday parties, gifts, entertainment, etc. So, job seekers should be looking for opportunities with catering companies, party and event organizers, restaurants, theaters and other entertainment venues,” said Challenger.

###



November 17, 2015

JOBS ADDED IN RETAIL TRADE October, November, December, 2005-2015

	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL	% Change
2005	122,300	392,700	196,600	711,600	0.2%
2006	150,600	427,300	169,000	746,900	5.0%
2007	87,900	465,400	167,600	720,900	-3.5%
2008	38,600	213,600	72,700	324,900	-54.9%
2009	45,100	317,100	133,600	495,800	52.6%
2010	149,800	339,200	158,600	647,600	30.6%
2011	134,200	390,600	154,500	679,300	4.9%
2012	138,700	485,400	99,600	723,700	6.5%
2013	159,600	443,100	184,100	786,800	8.7%
2014	185,700	414,300	155,000	755,000	-4.0%
2015	214,500	???	???	???	???
AVERAGE	129,727	388,870	149,130	659,250	

Source: Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., with data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Announced Seasonal Hiring Plans			
	2013	2014	2015
Amazon	70,000	80,000	100,000
UPS	55,000	95,000	95,000
Macy's	83,000	86,000	85,000
Kohl's	53,000	76,970	79,160
Target	70,000	70,000	70,000
Walmart	55,000	60,000	60,000
FedEx (Transportation)	20,000	50,000	55,000
Toys R Us	45,000	45,000	40,000
JC Penney	35,000	35,000	30,000
GameStop	17,000	25,000	28,000
Nordstrom	N/A	N/A	11,800
Sports Authority	N/A	N/A	3,500
Meijer	9,000	10,000	N/A
Gap	N/A	63,000	N/A
Hickory Farms (Food)	6,000	N/A	N/A
Best Buy	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	518,000	695,970	657,460