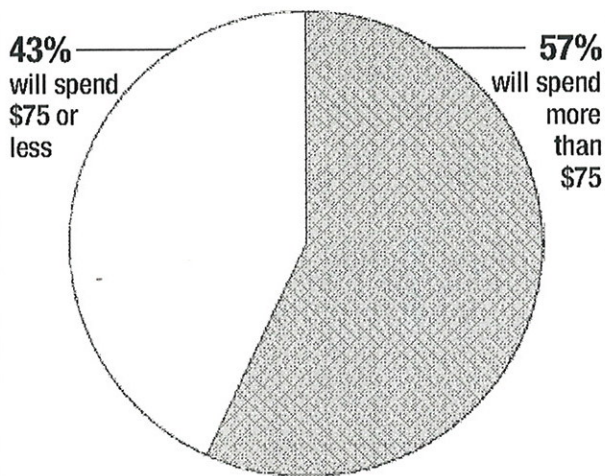


## Making allowances

What U.S. teens will spend on gifts this holiday



Source: Junior Achievement Worldwide Interprise poll

## RioCan, Ramco in \$1.5B venture

Canadian REIT **RioCan** is teaming up with American REIT **Ramco-Gershenson** to buy and build U.S. shopping centers. Having seeded their new joint venture with a portfolio of Ramco-Gershenson properties valued at about \$450M, the two plan to acquire or develop an additional \$1B worth of retail properties over the next several years. RioCan will control 70% of the venture, which is to operate with a ceiling of 60% debt. Ramco-Gershenson will develop, lease and manage the venture's properties and collect fees for those services. In addition, RioCan bought a 4.5% stake in Ramco-Gershenson. Toronto-based RioCan owns 204 Canadian shopping centers, totaling about 50M sf. Farmington Hills, Mich.-based Ramco-Gershenson owns 81 U.S. centers, totaling 18.3M sf. "Ramco's approach to the shopping center business is almost identical to RioCan's," said Edward Sonshine, RioCan president and CEO, in a press release, "whether it is development, redevelopment or tenant relationship building."

## Home Depot buys China chain for \$100M

**The Home Depot** has guaranteed a foothold for itself in China's \$50B home improvement market through its \$100M purchase of **The Home Way**, that country's first home improvement retail chain. The Chinese government has approved the transaction, which gives Home Depot 12 stores in six Chinese cities and is set to close by the end of the year, the Atlanta-based chain says. Home Way stores measure 90,000 sf on average. The stores are in Beijing, Qingdao, Shenyang, Tianjin, Xi'an and Zhengzhou. "This acquisition

provides us with a great point of entry in one of the world's largest and fastest-growing home improvement markets," said Robert L. Nardelli, Home Depot chairman, president and CEO, in a press release. "The Home Way is a strong brand that is already established as a value and price leader among Chinese consumers." China's home improvement market is growing by about 20% annually, and Home Depot says 70% of the spending goes to completion of interior space in new homes.

## TRANSACTIONS

The Midland Park, N.J.-based **Azarian Group** purchased the 35,000-sf **Plaza K** shopping center, in Woodbridge, N.J., for \$10.3M from **Denton Woodbridge**. • **Cedar Shopping Centers** paid \$90M for five supermarket properties in eastern Pennsylvania totaling 353,000 sf. The sellers were not disclosed. • Chevy Chase, Md.-based **JBG/Pike Center** purchased the 75,000-sf **Pike Shopping Center**, in Rockville, Md., for \$47.25M from **Pike Shopping Center**. • Atlanta-based **RCG Ventures** paid Needham, Mass.-based **CW Capital** \$32.4M for a portfolio of seven shopping centers totaling 1.1M sf. • **EJ Partners**, Manhattan Beach, Calif., bought an 80,599-sf, **Publix**-anchored center in Bradenton, Fla., from **Twelve Oaks Shopping Plaza** for \$11.2M.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK .....

"This acquisition provides us with a great point of entry in one of the world's largest and fastest-growing home improvement markets."

— Robert L. Nardelli, Home Depot's chairman, president and CEO, on the chain's purchase of Chinese retailer **The Home Way**

## Walgreens adds apparel to woo females

**Walgreens** is going after **Target** and **Wal-Mart** shoppers by introducing apparel and other lifestyle merchandise. Walgreen Co., which operates 5,580 stores, wants to differentiate itself from **Rite-Aid**, **CVS** and other drugstore competitors. The chain began selling apparel inside select stores last year. By next year, the chain says, all its stores will feature the new merchandise. "We've always

been a strong destination for health and beauty, and now we're layering on the fashion, jewelry, accessories and apparel angle to even further meet shoppers' lifestyle needs," spokeswoman Tiffani Bruce told *Women's Wear Daily*. Apparel will sell for under \$50, most of the items retailing for under \$14 a piece. The chain's comparable-store non-pharmacy sales rose 5.7% for November.