

Giant Corporations Claim To Care About Supply Chain Issues And Consumer Costs Despite Reporting Record Sales After Passing Increased Costs To Consumers

Despite Feigning Concern For Supply Chain Issues And Consumer Costs, Major Corporate Retailers Have Spent Billions Buying Back Company Stock After Record Sales And Increased Profits From Passing Along Higher Costs To Consumers.

In Late November 2021, President Biden Met With Several Major Corporate CEOs, Including The CEOs Of Best Buy, Walmart, And Kroger, To Discuss The Administration's Steps To Ensure Supply Chain Issues Don't Lead To Empty Shelves During The Holiday Shopping Period.

November 29, 2021: President Biden Met With Several Major Corporate CEOs, Including The CEOs Of Best Buy, Walmart, And Kroger, To Help Soothe Public Fears That Products Will Be Unavailable During The Holiday Shopping Period. "President Biden will meet Monday afternoon with CEOs of big retailers, grocers and consumer-products firms to send this message, according to the White House: Products will be on shelves for holiday shopping. [...] In-person participants for Biden's roundtable are scheduled to include the CEOs of Best Buy, Food Lion, Samsung North America, Qurate Retail Group, Todos Supermarket, Etsy, Mattel and Kroger. [...] Virtual participants are scheduled to include Walmart CEO Doug McMillon and CVS Health CEO Karen Lynch." [Axios, [11/29/21](#)]

After His Meeting With These CEOs, President Biden Will Speak "About Administration Efforts To Strengthen Supply Chains, Lower Costs For Families, And Ensure That Shelves Are Stocked." "President Biden will meet Monday afternoon with CEOs of big retailers, grocers and consumer-products firms to send this message, according to the White House: Products will be on shelves for holiday shopping. [...] Afterward, Biden will speak on-camera about administration efforts to strengthen supply chains, lower costs for families, and ensure that shelves are stocked." [Axios, [11/29/21](#)]

Just Last Week, Best Buy Boasted Of "Record Q3 Financial Results Of \$11.9 Billion In Sales" Due To Higher Consumer Appliance Prices, One Of The "Biggest Contributors" To Its Increased Quarterly Sales— That Same Quarter Best Buy Spent \$405 Million Buying Back Company Stock.

In Its Q3 Earnings Call Held On November 23, 2021, Best Buy CEO Corie Barry Reported The Company Had "Record Q3 Financial Results Of \$11.9 Billion In Sales." "Corie Barry [...] Good morning, everyone. And thank you for joining us. Today, we are reporting record Q3

financial results of \$11.9 billion in sales and non-GAAP diluted earnings per share of \$2.08, which is up 1% over last year and up 84% compared to 2 years ago." [Seeking Alpha, [11/23/21](#)]

Best Buy CFO Matt Bilunas Admitted Prices For Appliances Had Gone Up For Consumers. "Matt Bilunas [...] Yeah. Specifically to appliances, that is one of the areas where it's been pretty well noted that prices have gone up. And so we - and that's probably an area where, in most cases, we've those prices on to the consumer. So those prices have - or sales prices have increased. That's not to say that, that happens in all circumstances and a lot of categories where you still want to make sure you're very competitive with our pricing, even if costs do go up your, you're actually being thoughtful about serving them in the best way possible." [Seeking Alpha, [11/23/21](#)]

Meanwhile, Best Buy CEO Corie Barry Named "Appliances, Home Theater And Mobile Phones" As The "Biggest Contributors" To Its Increased Quarterly Sales. "Corie Barry [...] We continue to capitalize on strong customer demand as more people sustainably work, entertain, cook and connect at home. And Domestic comparable sales growth was up 2% on top of 23% last year. From a merchandising perspective, the biggest contributors to our comparable sales growth in the quarter were appliances, home theater and mobile phones." [Seeking Alpha, [11/23/21](#)]

Best Buy Repurchased \$405 Million Worth Of Shares In Q3 And Has Repurchased \$1.7 Billion Worth Of Shares For The Year-To-Date. "During the quarter, we returned a total of \$577 million to shareholders through share repurchases of \$405 million and dividends of \$172 million. With a year-to-date share buyback spend of \$1.7 billion, we still expect to spend more than \$2.5 billion in share repurchases this year." [Seeking Alpha, [11/23/21](#)]

In Mid-November 2021, Walmart Touted "Strong Sales And Profit Growth In Each Of Our Segments"—The Corporation Noted That Groceries Led Sales Growth And That "Low To Mid Single Digit Inflation Benefited Results" For Grocery Sales, Which Helped The Company Buy Back \$2.2 Billion In Stock During Its Third Quarter.

In Its Q3 Earnings Call Held On November 16, 2021, Walmart President And CEO Doug McMillon Said "We Continue To Have Momentum. Sales Were Strong Throughout The Third Quarter And We've Seen A Good Start To The Fourth Quarter." "Doug McMillon - *President and Chief Executive Officer* [...] Hello, everyone, and thanks for joining us. We continue to have momentum. Sales were strong throughout the third quarter and we've seen a good start to the fourth quarter thanks to all the thoughtful planning and hard work from our associates. [...] All segments saw strong top line gains in the quarter, excluding divestitures, and I could not be prouder of our team." [The Motley Fool, [11/16/21](#)]

Walmart Executive Vice President And Chief Financial Officer Brett Biggs Said, "[Quarterly] Momentum Continued With Strong Sales And Profit Growth In Each Of Our Segments." "Brett Biggs -- *Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer* [...] Thanks, Doug. In the third quarter, momentum continued with strong sales and profit growth in each of our segments while continuing to accelerate our strategic priorities. We're off to a good start for the holiday season and in good position to continue delivering strong results. Despite the various macro and industry challenges, our inventory position is good." [The Motley Fool, [11/16/21](#)]

Biggs Also Noted That Walmart Spent \$2.2 Billion On Stock Buybacks In Its Third Quarter And \$7.4 Billion In The Year-To-Date. "Brett Biggs -- *Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer* [...] We repurchased \$2.2 billion of stock in Q3 and \$7.4 billion year-to-date, up significantly from last year." [The Motley Fool, [11/16/21](#)]

Walmart CEO Doug McMillon Said "Strong Sales Trends Were Led By Grocery, Health And Wellness And Apparel." "Doug McMillon -- *President and Chief Executive Officer* [...] Strong sales trends were led by grocery, health and wellness and apparel. Back to school categories also performed well, along with automotive and holiday decor." [The Motley Fool, [11/16/21](#)]

Walmart CEO Doug McMillon Noted "Strong Momentum In The Grocery Business." "We're pleased with the strong momentum in the grocery business as our strong price positioning and omni offerings resonate with customers." [The Motley Fool, [11/16/21](#)]

McMillon Added, "Grocery Sales Were Up Nearly 10% As Strong Unit Growth And Low To Mid Single Digit Inflation Benefited Results." "Grocery sales were up nearly 10% as strong unit growth and low to mid single digit inflation benefited results. In fact, food sales grew \$3.6 billion during Q3, which is the strongest quarterly growth in six quarters." [The Motley Fool, [11/16/21](#)]

In September 2021, Kroger Flaunted That The Company's Second Quarter Sales Were "Above Our Internal Expectations" While Admitting To "Passing Along Higher Cost" To Customers—That Same Quarter Kroger Spent \$349 Million Buying Back Company Stock.

In Its Q2 Earnings Call Held On September 10, 2021, Kroger Chairman And Chief Executive Officer Rodney McMullen Said Sales Without Fuel Grew "Ahead Of Our Internal Expectations," While The Company Saw "Triple Digit Growth In Digital" Sales. "Rodney McMullen -- *Chairman and Chief Executive Officer* [...] Their unending commitment to serving our customers and communities continues to make a difference in Kroger's second-quarter identical sales without fuel grew 14% on a two year stacked basis, ahead of our internal expectations. We saw triple digit growth in digital over the same time period and continue to drive costs out of the business through cost saving initiatives and operational efficiencies." [The Motley Fool, [09/10/21](#)]

Kroger Chief Financial Officer Gary Millerchip Admitted Kroger Was "Passing Along Higher Cost To The Customer Where It Makes Sense To Do So." "Gary Millerchip -- *Chief Financial Officer* [...] In the second half of the quarter, we also saw higher inflation in some categories. We are being disciplined in working with suppliers to manage these increases and are passing along higher cost to the customer where it makes sense to do so." [The Motley Fool, [09/10/21](#)]

Millerchip Also Added That Kroger Had "Repurchased \$349 Million Of Shares" In The Second Quarter And \$751 Million Worth Of Shares For The Year-To-Date. "During the quarter, Kroger repurchased \$349 million of shares and year-to-date has repurchased \$751 million of shares." [The Motley Fool, [09/10/21](#)]

Millerchip Stated That Fuel Sales, Which Grew By 7% In The Second Quarter, Was A "Tailwind To Operating Profit Of \$33 Million" Compared To Last Year. "Fuel is also an important part of our overall value proposition for our customers. Gallons grew in the second quarter by 7% and outpaced market growth. The average retail price of fuel was \$3.13 this quarter versus \$2.14 in the same quarter last year. Our cents per gallon fuel margin was \$0.39 compared to \$0.37 in the same quarter in 2020 and fuel was a tailwind to operating profit of \$33 million compared to prior year." [The Motley Fool, [09/10/21](#)]