## TYPES OF RETAILERS

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## Retailer Characteristics

o type of merchandise sold
o variety and assortment of merchandise
o level of customer service
o price of the merchandise

## Types of Merchandise

- The US Bureau of the Census uses a hierarchical set of four digit codes called the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC).
- The US Bureau along with Mexico and Canada, adopted a new classification system, the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).


## NAICS Code Hierarchy



## Variety and Assortment

- Variety is the number of different merchandise categories a retailer offers (breadth).
- Assortment is the number of different items in a merchandise category (depth)
- Each different item of merchandise is called a stock keeping unit (SKU).


## Services Offered

- Customers expect retailers to provide some services--accepting credit cards, proving parking, and displaying merchandise.
- Some retailers go beyond this and provide other services such as gift wrapping and home delivery, at a charge.


## Price

- Offering more depth and breadth of merchandise is appealing to customers.
o Offering services attracts customers.
o To make a profit with more depth and breadth or services retailers must charge higher prices.


## Sales and Growth Rate for Retail Sectors

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Sources: Softeoods Economic Forecast: Outlook to 2010 (Columbus, OH: Retail Forward, May 2006): Homegoods Economic Forecast
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## Food Retailers

- Conventional Supermarket
- Limited Assortment Supermarket
- Supercenter
- Warehouse Club
- Convenience Store


## Characteristics of Food Retailers

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## Supermarket

- Self-service
- Offer
- Groceries
- Meat
- Produce
- Limited non-food items


## Supercenters

- Fastest growing sector of food retailer.
© 150,000 to 200,000 sq. ft. stores that combine a superstore and a full-line discount store.
- Sell groceries at low prices to build store traffic.
© One stop shopping


## Warehouse Clubs

- Large (about 100,000 sq. ft.) and located in low rent districts.
- Little service at low prices to ultimate consumers and small businesses.
- Reduce costs by carrying a limited assortment of fast-selling items.
- Members must pay an annual fee


## Convenience Stores

- Modern versions of the neighborhood mom-and pop stores.
- Convenient location in a 2,000 to 3,000 sq. ft. store with a speedy checkout.
- Limited variety and assortment of merchandise.
- Gasoline and cigarettes account for over $55 \%$ of annual sales.


## General Merchandise Retailers

- Department stores
- Full-line discount stores
- Specialty stores
- Drug stores
© Category specialists
- Home improvement centers
- Off-price retailers.


## Characteristics of General Merchandise Retailers

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## Department Stores

- Broad variety and deep assortment
- Offer considerable customer services
- Organized into separate departments for displaying merchandise
- women's , men's and children's clothing and accessories
- home furnishing and furniture
- kitchenware and small appliances.


## Department Stores Categorized into three tiers

- Tier One
- Upscale
- High-fashion chains
* Exclusive designer merchandise
- Naiman Marcus
- Bloomingdale's
- Saks Fith Avenue


## Services Retailing

- Sell services rather than products
- Important differences
- Intangibility
- Simultaneous Production and Delivery
- Perishability
- Inconsistency of the Offerings


## Continuum of Merchandise and Services Retailers



## Types of Ownership

o Another way to classify retailers is by their ownership.

- Independent, Single-Store Establishment
- Corporate Chains
- Franchises


## Independent, single-store establishments

- Many retail start-ups are ownermanaged
- Direct contact with customers
- Not bound by bureaucracies inherent in large retail organizations
- Very flexible
- React quickly to customer needs and market changes


## Corporate Retail Chain

- Operates multiple retail units under common ownership.
- Centralized decision making for defining and implementing strategy.
- May be two stores or many thousand stores.


## Franchising

- Contractual agreement between a franchiser and a franchisee that allows the franchisee to operate a retail outlet using a name and format developed and supported by the franchiser.
- More than 40 percent of all U.S. retail sales are made by franchisees.


## Franchising

- Franchisees are motivated to make their store successful because they receive the profits after the royalty is paid.
o The franchiser is motivated to develop new products and systems to promote the franchise because it receives a royalty on all sales.


## Retailers Using Franchise Business Model

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