Retail Supply Chain Update
May 29, 2020

Walmart tech workers will continue to work remotely, even after pandemic

- The company’s roughly 10,000 tech workers, based mostly in Silicon Valley, will continue to work remotely after the pandemic subsides
- Office space “will be used primarily for collaboration, to sync up and strengthen camaraderie.”

Dollar General’s First Quarter earnings are out

- Dollar General was a major resource for consumers seeking to keep their houses stocked during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The retailer’s first-quarter report showed soaring sales and a tripling of operating cash flow.
- Sales jumped 22% at existing locations, which helped push revenue higher by 27% to $8.5 billion.
- Gross profit margin improved to 30.7% of sales from 30.2%, and selling expenses dove to 20.5% of sales from 22.5% a year ago.
- Dollar General did see elevated costs related to COVID-19, including higher wages and cleaning expenses. But the soaring sales volume more than offset that punch. It also helped that Dollar General focuses its sales more toward staple products like home cleaning supplies, while Walmart carries a bigger apparel section, which was a burden through the early days of the pandemic.

Aldi to launch curbside pick-up at 600 stores

- Aldi said Thursday that it aims to expand the click-and-collect service to stores in 35 states by the end of July.
- Customers will place their orders via Aldi’s Instacart page or mobile app, and Aldi store associates will pick and pack the groceries and bring them out to customers’ vehicles.

Tyson Foods

- 555 out of the 2,517 workers at the company’s Storm Lake, IA facility recently tested positive for COVID-19.
- Sarah Reisetter, the deputy director of Iowa Department of Public Health, said Iowa businesses are being asked to report COVID-19 outbreaks once more than 10 percent of the company’s workforce test positive.
- 326 workers out of 1,604 at the company’s Sherman, Texas facility have tested positive for COVID-19.