December

The comments on reported results in this summary relate to Target Corporation sales for the five week period ended December 31, 2011 compared with the five week period ended January 1, 2011. These sales results are included in the table of our sales release issued on January 5, 2012.

For the fiscal December period, reported comparable-store sales increased 1.6 percent. This increase was driven primarily by an increase in average transaction size, combined with a smaller increase in comparable-store transactions. Overall comparable-store sales in December 2010 increased 0.9 percent.

The current month’s sales release quotes Gregg Steinhafel, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Target Corporation, as saying, “December sales were below our expectations as growth in Grocery and Beauty offset softness in Electronics and Music, Movies & Books. Sales and traffic were strongest in the week leading up to Christmas as guests waited to shop for last-minute gifts. In 2012, we’ll continue to pursue initiatives designed to deliver compelling value and a superior shopping experience against the backdrop of continued slow and volatile economic growth.”

As a result of softer-than-expected holiday season sales, the company currently expects fourth quarter 2011 diluted EPS of $1.35 to $1.43, compared with prior guidance of $1.43 to $1.53. Both current and prior guidance include expenses related to Target’s investments in its 2013 Canadian market entry. Both current and prior guidance exclude any reduction in income tax expense from the resolution of income tax uncertainties, which the company expects to be approximately $50 million in the quarter, and also exclude the impacts of a potential credit-card receivables sale transaction and/or any potential early extinguishment of non-recourse debt collateralized by credit card receivables.

December comparable-store sales in Food increased in the low teens. Comparable-store sales in Household Essentials increased in the mid single-digit range, with the strongest performance in Beauty. Comparable-store sales in Apparel & Accessories increased in the low single-digit range, with the strongest performance in Kids’ Apparel and Intimate/Hosiery/Performance and the strongest performance in Jewelry/Accessories and Shoes. Comparable-store sales in Hardlines decreased in the low single-digit range, with the strongest performance in Toys and the softest performance in Electronics and Music, Movies & Books. Comparable-store sales in Home Furnishings & Decor decreased in the low single-digit range, with the strongest performance in seasonal categories and the softest performance in Decorative Home.

December comparable-store sales increased in every region, with a relatively small spread between regions.

At month-end, our inventory was in very good condition.

For the month of January, our comparable-store sales results will compare the four weeks ending January 28, 2012 to the four weeks ended January 29, 2011. We expect a low to mid single-digit increase in Target’s comparable-store sales for this period.

Target’s current sales disclosure practice includes a sales recording on the day of our monthly sales release. Our next sales recording is expected to be issued on Thursday, February 2, 2012 and may be accessed by calling 866-526-7639. Text versions of our recordings are available on our Investor Relations website, www.target.com/investors, by clicking on “Financial News” and then “Monthly Sales Summaries.”

The statements on expected sales and EPS performance are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements speak only as of the date they are made and are subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause the company's actual results to differ materially.
The most important risks and uncertainties are described in the Risk Factors section of the company's Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended January 29, 2011.