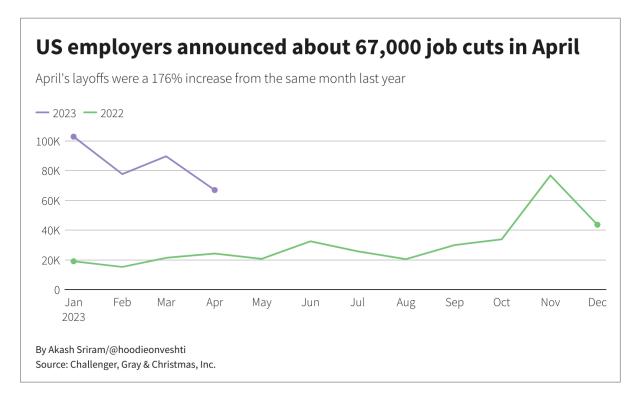


Key Takeaways:

- Technology is the biggest sector in terms of total job cuts in 2023 accounting for 49% of all job cuts.
- Through May 5th, ten major retailers have filed for bankruptcy in 2023.
- Online shopping sales increase by 15-20% on Mondays.
- Target on tracks to offer curbside returns in all locations by the end of the summer.
- Fanatics is expanding their partnership with the WWE to have Fanatics operate all on-site retail for the over 300 WWE yearly events.
- The new EY Future Consumer Index shows 94% of consumers are worried about the rising cost of living.

US Retailers Cut the Most Number of Jobs in April, Report Says

- Retail layoffs up 270% from March.
- Technology is the biggest sector in terms of total job cuts in 2023 accounting for 49% of all job cuts.
- Retail was the second highest accounting for 16% of all job cuts.
- Total layoffs in April were 67,000.
 - o Down 25% from March





More Retail Bankruptcies are Brewing After Bed Bath & Beyond and David's Bridal

- Through May 5th, ten major retailers have filed for bankruptcy in 2023.
 - In 2022 there were only five major retailers that filed for bankruptcy.
- Factors leading to trouble:
 - o Rising cost of capital
 - o Banking sector problems
 - o Record levels of household debt
 - Inflation is causing consumer demand to decline.
- "On the edge are highly leveraged retailers with debt that can't be refinanced and are doing poorly operationally. That's when we'll see an uptick in bankruptcies" James Gellert, chairman and CEO of Rapid Ratings International.
- Rapid Ratings International ranks Mattress Firm and Wayfair as the weakest major retailers based on their proprietary algorithm.



Monday Morning is the Peak Shopping Hour, Says Report

- Online shopping sales increase by 15-20% on Mondays.
- Potential reasons for this:
 - Monday is the most popular day to work from home per the workspace app NearU.
 - o 58% of people over 75 regularly use a computer.



Retailers Meet Customers Where They Are – In Their Cars

- Target on tracks to offer curbside returns in all locations by the end of the summer.
 - The whole process can be done within the app.
- Domino's offers a way to place orders using Apple CarPlay.
 - A button to reorder a saved order in one click labeled "Tap to Order".
 - There is a button to call the store to place an unsaved order labeled "Call to Order".
- Subway has a partnership with GenZ EV to bring electric vehicle charging stations to select locations.
 - The goal is to eventually open "Subway Oasis" locations that will include playgrounds, green space, picnic tables, Wi-Fi, restrooms, and canopies with charging ports.



Fanatics to Run On-Site Retail for World Wrestling Entertainment

- Fanatics is expanding their partnership with the WWE to have Fanatics operate all on-site retail for the over 300 WWE yearly events.
- This will bring more localized merchandise and organizing an enhanced in-venue product offering.
- Fanatics already had an existing partnership with the WWE to be the global e-commerce partner of the WWE



The Top Consumer Concerns Are...

- The new EY Future Consumer Index shows 94% of consumers are worried about the rising cost of living.
- Consumers are less focused on brands as 55% say that brands for fashion are no longer important.
 - People are more focused on repairing rather than buying new clothes as 67% of respondents said they prefer to repair.
- People are planning on spending less on non-essential items. The percentage of people expecting to spend less on clothes is 36% while 44% expect to spend less on takeout food.





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