

# B-T-S Biz: Boom or Bust?

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**NEW YORK** — Will footwear retailers make the grade this back-to-school season?

With consumer confidence still shaky and prices starting to rise, some major retailers and independent store owners said they can't predict business levels this season.

"There's still a lot of uncertainty in the marketplace," said Kmart Chief Marketing Officer Mark Snyder. "Unemployment is still high and gas prices are still high. So I don't want to be overly [optimistic]."