



AutoZone Opens 3,000th U.S. Location

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MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 18 /PRNewswire/ -- Steve Odland, chairman and CEO of AutoZone (NYSE: AZO) today announced the opening of the Memphis-based auto parts retailer's 3,000th U.S. store. Located in Cicero, Ill., the new store marks AutoZone's entry into an elite group of U.S. retailers which have reached the 3,000-store barrier.

"For our nearly 22 years of business, we've been a growth company," says Odland. "In that time, we've grown from one store in Forrest City, Arkansas, to 3,000 stores in 42 states and the District of Columbia. In fact, in just the last four years, we've doubled our number of AutoZone locations."

When AutoZone opened its first store in 1979, it changed the way people bought car parts. The retailer, founded by a third-generation grocery wholesaler, introduced to the industry such conventions as shiny floors, bright lighting and bold, colorful product displays.

"Prior to AutoZone, the typical parts store was a dusty, dimly lit collection of badly displayed parts and accessories," says Odland. "Customer service was an afterthought, and unless you were a mechanic, you probably didn't feel welcome. We changed that. Our innovative focus on the customer's shopping environment and exciting product mix has created the demand for 3,000 locations. We've also achieved significant growth in commercial sales and are making big strides with our stores in Mexico."

"Innovation and customer service are the keys to success in retail," says John Lawrence, retail analyst with Morgan Keegan. "AutoZone has mastered both. Not only did they reinvent a retail category, but they've kept up the pace, delivering their formula with virtual ease across 3,000 locations."

AutoZone sells auto and light truck parts, chemicals and accessories through 3,000 AutoZone stores in 42 states plus the District of Columbia in the U.S. and 16 AutoZone stores in Mexico. AutoZone also sells heavy-duty truck parts through 49 TruckPro stores in 15 states, and automotive diagnostic and repair software through ALLDATA. On the web, AutoZone provides diagnostic and repair information and sells auto and light truck parts through AutoZone.com.

SOURCE AutoZone, Inc.

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