Independent retail supermarkets and the wholesalers that supply them play a vital role in the communities they serve and are a major contributor to the economy of the United States and Rhode Island. Defined as a privately held, or family-owned entrepreneurial business, independent supermarket operators run businesses of all formats and sizes, and are dedicated to their customers, associates and communities.

**STORES AND SALES**

In Rhode Island, the independent supermarket channel includes 46 stores and generates $362.50 million in annual sales.

**JOBS AND WAGES**

In Rhode Island, independent supermarket operators are responsible for creating 1,910 stable, reliable jobs and $77.92 million in wages paid.

**TAXES**

In Rhode Island, independent supermarkets and the wholesalers that serve them are a major source of tax revenue for federal, state and local governments. Together the independent channel and their employees generate about $36.49 million in state and local tax and $33.66 million in federal taxes. The combined total in the State of Rhode Island is $70.16 million.

**NATIONAL IMPACT**

The economic impact of the independent supermarket industry reaches all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Nationally there are 21,000 independently owned supermarkets that generate $131 billion in annual sales, representing nearly 25% of the total domestic market.