Retail sales hop up 3.9% in September

September sales rose 3.9 percent — a slowdown from the 6 percent rise in August — as 22 retailers like Macy's and Costco reported mixed results, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Still, given the economic and political uncertainty that weighs on many Americans right now, analysts say the results are an encouraging sign for stores as they head into what's traditionally the busiest shopping period of the year in November and December.

— From wire reports