

## Holiday Shopping

**Ed Donahue:**

The Thanksgiving shopping weekend doesn't appear to have been the disaster some had feared. Retailers took in an estimated \$10.6 billion on Black Friday: a 3 percent rise from a year ago, but disappointing nonetheless.

**Bob O'Brien:**

Clearly, the feeling on the part of investors that we didn't get any kind of a slam dunk out of the start to the holiday shopping season.

**Ed Donahue:**

With the holiday shopping season in full swing, online retailers are hoping "Cyber Monday" will provide a boost to their bottom line. But with more retailers advertising their deals ahead of time, the day has lost its luster.

**Bob O'Brien:**

It's not as significant as it-as it formerly was. I mean, I think there's still a little bit of tradition associated with the convention, but, you know, you even saw some of the retailers, like a Walmart, coming out on Thursday evening offering online sort of previews of their doorbuster specials. So the retailers are helping to kind of co-opt, uh, this whole Sund-, er, Cyber Monday phenomenon.

**Ed Donahue:**

A more complete sales picture of how the Thanksgiving shopping weekend fared won't be known until Thursday, when the nation's retailers report November same-store sales, or sales at stores opened at least a year.

**Ed Donahue:**

Ed Donahue, The Associated Press.

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