



What's on Your List? Holiday Shopping Expectations

The [National Retail Federation](#) estimates shoppers will spend a total of \$727.9 billion to \$730.7 billion on holiday shopping in November and December. That's up 3.8% to 4.2% from 2018, compared to a 3.7% increase in previous years.

On a more focused, individual basis, consumers [expect to spend](#) about \$1,047.83 this holiday season, up 4% from last year, the NRF's annual [holiday survey](#) found. That spending is split between several categories:

Gifts:

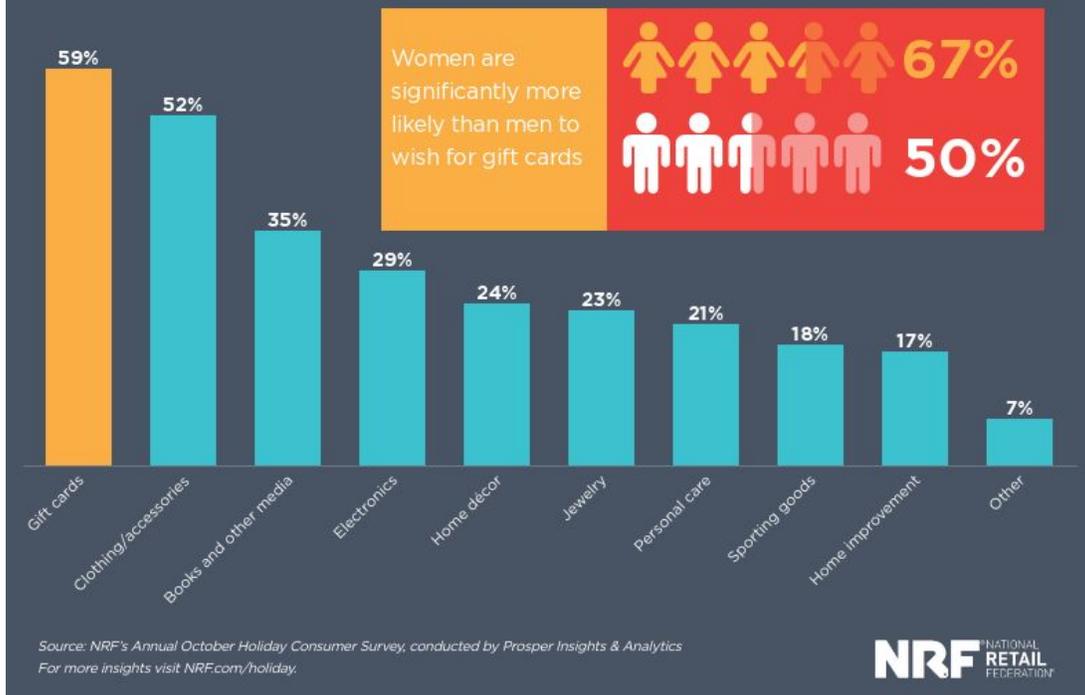
- Gifts for family: \$501
- Gifts for friends: \$84
- Gifts for coworkers: \$35
- Other gifts: \$38

Non-gift holiday items:

- Candy and food: \$110
 - Decorations: \$61
 - Greeting cards and postage: \$31
 - Flowers and potted plants \$25
- Other purchases: \$162

What's on shoppers' wish lists this year

What types of gifts would you like to receive this holiday season?



Consumers will spend holiday dollars in many places, including online (56%), department stores (53%), discount stores (51%), grocery stores (44%), clothing and accessory stores (34%) and electronic stores and local small businesses (23%). Note: these percentages don't add up to 100 because shoppers are planning to go to more than one place

Read more about consumers' plans in the NRF's [shopper forecast](#), and the [NRF's spending forecast](#). Or check out NRF's holiday FAQ page by [clicking here](#).

Rulemaking

Toxic Free Kids

The Oregon Health Authority [Toxic Free Kids Act](#) Rulemaking Advisory Committee last met on Nov. 4 to review the act, which act regulates items marketed to children by requiring manufacturers to report products containing "chemicals of concern." The committee continues to work through several issues including:

- Documentation requirements for businesses proving their products comply with the rule
- Duplicative reporting requirements within the proposed rule itself and between federal and Oregon laws and regulations
- The proposed rule's overly broad definition of manufacturer – importers and distributors are included

OBI is a member of the rulemaking advisory committee, which next meets on Friday, Dec. 6.

Health Benefits of Goods Rulemaking

OBI is organizing a coalition to submit comments on the Department of Justice's proposed rule on the health benefits of goods. The rule would require a business to produce "competent and reliable scientific evidence" before advertising that a product has a health benefit. OBI will submit the comments before the Dec. 16 deadline. We will oppose the department's proposed rule and highlight:

- The fact that federal regulations in this area are sufficient, making this rule duplicative in many instances
- The problems the private right of action in the proposed rule would create

- The financial burden of compliance
- The unnecessary inclusion of a provision creating dual liability of manufacturers and retailers

Initiative Petitions

Automated Checkout Stands

OBI has submitted ballot title challenge for this [initiative petition](#) which aims to limit automated checkout stands in retail stores. It specifically mandates no more than two operating at any one time per location. OBI submitted [comments](#) in October.

Employer Assessment

The "Public Assistance Protection Act" aims to require employers to pay a tax based on the number of their employees eligible for public assistance. It is often referred to as an "employer assessment," but OBI has asked it to be called what it is, a tax. Four initiative petitions were filed on this subject, but proponents have only taken steps to advance [IP 28](#). OBI prepared and [filed comments](#) on the ballot title in October. OBI and our partners are now challenging the ballot title in court.



Upcoming Events

2020 OBI Annual Meeting



OBI is pleased to announce the keynote speaker for the 2020 Annual Meeting is A.B. Stoddard, associate editor and columnist at [RealClearPolitics](#). Stoddard is known for her extensive career in political journalism. She has worked at The Hill and ABC News and regularly appears on the Fox News Channel and Fox Business Network.

You can register for the Annual Meeting, which will be on Thursday, Feb. 13, in Salem. [Click here](#) to reserve your spot.



Retail News

[Deck the Halls and Pack the Malls: 10 Issues for Seasonal Employee Hiring](#)

[Small Businesses are Original 'Experiential Shopping' Model](#)



Resources



Smart Oregon Businesses Choose OBI CompSAFE

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LegalPlus Program

Did you know, by being an OBI member you can get free legal advice? OBI and Innova Legal Advisors provides members 15 minutes of legal consultation each month through the LegalPlus program. Check it out by [clicking here](#). Or contact Bob Blackmore at Innova Legal Advisors: Phone: 503-479-7175; email: Bob.Blackmore@innovalegaladvisors.com.



OBI HealthChoice
Big Business Options on a Small Business Budget

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Wholesale Fuel Pricing

OBI has partnered with MCP Petroleum to drive down OBI members' fuel cost. OBI is leveraging the collective purchasing power of our membership to get wholesale fuel pricing for our members. In addition to fuel savings, OBI members will have access to a comprehensive fuel management system that will reduce slippage, save valuable employee time and provide accountability and oversight of your company's fuel consumption.

OBI members who use 900 gallons of fuel annually through their company are eligible for this program. Please contact [Jeff DeSantis](#) for more information.



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