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Retailers leery about holiday season

Associated Press

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - Vermont retailers say they anticipate lackluster sales this holiday season because of the slumping economy.

Tasha Wallis, executive director of the Vermont Retail Association, says she expects consumers to spend less than usual this year. Normally, Vermonters spend \$400 to \$500 on gifts each holiday season.

If the economy wasn't bad enough, a bit of bad calendar luck could also hurt retailers. The holiday shopping season is about a week shorter than it was last year because Thanksgiving fell so late in November.

Some stores are fighting back. Small Dog Electronics, which has stores in Waitsfield and South Burlington, has mailed 6,000 gift cards to customers, calling them the company's "economic stimulus package."

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