

Black Friday, traditionally the beginning of the Christmas shopping season, is one week from today.

The term dates back to at least 1966, although its usage was primarily on the East coast. The term has become more common in other parts of the country since 2000. Because Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday in November in the United States, Black Friday occurs between the 23rd and the 29th of November. According to one report, in 2007 135 million people participated in the Black Friday shopping rush.

In many cities it is not uncommon to see shoppers lined up for hours before stores with big sales open. Once inside the stores, shoppers often rush and grab, as many stores have only a few of the big-draw items. And electronics and popular toys are often the most sought-after items and may be sharply discounted.

Jeff Owen of the Valley View Mall says the trend of "mad dash shopping" should continue more this year since more and more folks are stepping over the "recession line".....and wandering into the "open field of spending".