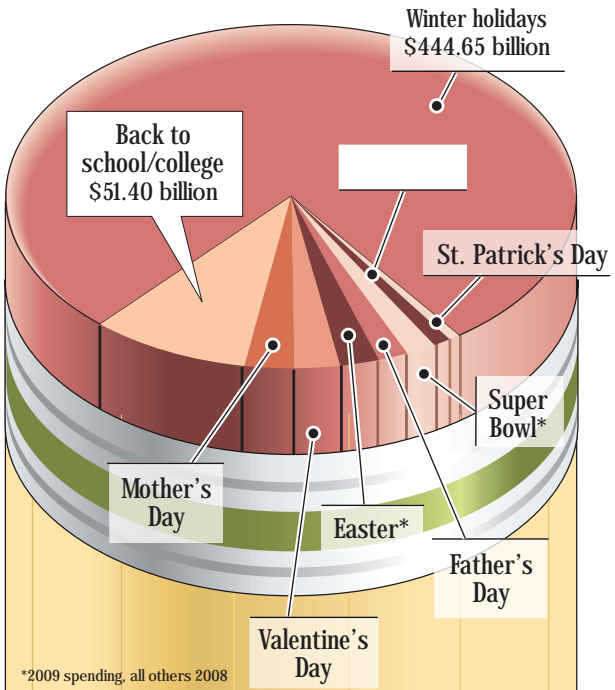


Getting ready for school

The back-to-school shopping season is the second-busiest period of the year for retailers, behind only the winter-holiday period.



Back-to-school shoppers remain frugal

Fewer consumers expect to reduce their spending on back-to-school items compared with last year, although economic concerns continue to weigh on their shopping plans, according to a survey by Deloitte.

Among those surveyed . . .

64 percent plan to spend less on back-to-school items, compared with 71 percent in 2008.

43 percent will cut back their spending by more than \$100, down from 48 percent last year.

Those surveyed also say they . . .

