# Online spending rises, oil prices rebound and mayoral candidacy announced



During the 2023 holiday season, online spending experienced a notable increase, rising by 8.7% compared to the previous year. According to data from Adobe, consumers spent a total of $241.4 billion on retailers’ websites and apps between November 1 and December 31. The growth in online shopping has been attributed to attractive deals and the implementation of AI-powered chatbots, which played a significant role in enhancing the purchasing experience for shoppers. This trend reflects the continuing evolution of e-commerce, particularly as technology integrates more with consumer engagement strategies.

In a separate development, oil prices saw a reversal of early declines on Tuesday, buoyed by concerns regarding tighter supply from Russia and Iran amid escalating Western sanctions. Market activity indicated that Brent crude futures rose by 60 cents, or 0.79%, reaching $76.90 per barrel. Meanwhile, U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude increased by 50 cents, or 0.68%, to settle at $74.06. These fluctuations in oil prices indicate the volatile nature of global energy markets and the impact of geopolitical tensions on commodity pricing.

In local political news, interim Mayor of St. George, Dustin Yates, formally announced his intention to run for a full term as mayor. Yates, who was appointed by Governor Jeff Landry in May, made the announcement on Tuesday morning. The election is scheduled to take place on March 29. This decision marks a crucial step for Yates as he seeks to solidify his leadership within the community following his recent appointment.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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