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## **Relax, Let a Restaurant Cook Thanksgiving Dinner**

*Nine percent of adults plan to eat a Thanksgiving meal at a restaurant this year*

Thanksgiving Day is a traditional holiday that gathers family and friends around the table for a meal and kicks off the holiday season. While Thanksgiving is often a marathon in the kitchen consisting of preparing, cooking and baking, many are being lured away from these stressful tasks by dining at restaurants or allowing restaurants to prepare their meals in advance.

This year, based on a new National Restaurant Association (NRA) survey, nearly one in 10 adults plan to eat a Thanksgiving meal at a restaurant. Those who plan to dine out for the holiday are not likely to bid farewell to all sense of tradition with 31 percent reporting the restaurant they dine at is one they traditionally visit on Thanksgiving.

“As we embark on the busy holiday season, it’s important to note that the foodservice industry has a seat at the family table and is a staple in the planning of holiday meals,” said Justin Winslow, president and CEO of the Michigan Restaurant Association.

Immediately following Thanksgiving Day, is the traditional shopping day known as Black Friday. Of the 43 percent of adults who plan to shop on this day, 72 percent plan to visit a restaurant while they are out, according to the NRA survey.

Figures are based on a national online survey of 1,017 adults conducted by ORC International, November 9 – 12, 2017. The survey asked consumers about their dining and shopping plans for Thanksgiving weekend. Results were produced by the NRA.

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***Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents approximately 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing more than 435,000 people and generating \$15.9 billion in annual sales.***