

November 2019

Consumers and the Economic Outlook - UK

“Brexit has been delayed again. The public faces a Christmas general election. And the economy narrowly avoided a recession in September. It is no wonder, then, that consumer confidence has taken a hit. However, financial well-being is holding up and the vast majority of people think they’ll be OK in ...

Supermarkets - UK

“During an uncertain period, demand in the grocery sector has held up well. Within this the underlying demographic shifts continue to see sales move away from larger-format stores, but they remain the format that attracts the majority of two thirds of consumers’ grocery budgets.”

– Nick Carroll, Associate Director ...

October 2019

Clothing Retailing - UK

“As the clothing market in the UK faces more challenging times with slowing consumer spending, retailers have had to up their game to stand out amid stiffer competition. The best performing retailers are those that don’t stand still – providing consumers with ever greater choice of product, a better shopping ...

Food and Non-food Discounters - UK

“The discount sector continues to enjoy positive growth and the main players across both food and non-food discounting continue to build their store estates through organic openings. Aldi and Lidl are increasingly blurring the lines between discount and convenience in the UK. The non-food discounters, however, are making fewer strides ...

September 2019

Jewellery & Watches Retailing - UK

“The UK jewellery and watch market has benefited from the rising demand for high-priced investment pieces as well as new trends in jewellery. However, many of the big brands and retailers are suffering from the same issues plaguing the high street, such as growing consumer uncertainty and declining footfall. Furthermore ...

Consumers and the Economic Outlook - UK

“It is a confusing time for the British public. The new Government has been unable to agree a Brexit deal with the EU and Parliament has passed legislation obliging the Prime Minister to request a further extension if he cannot get one. Despite this, Boris Johnson has maintained his stance ...

July 2019

Online Retailing - UK

“The online market continues to grow strongly and gain its share of the wider retail market in the UK. Its rise is not necessarily the ‘high-street killer’ it is portrayed to be, but its growth is changing retail both on and off line. Particularly key is the continued growth in ...

Department Stores - UK

“As the UK’s leading department stores continue to struggle, there is a question as to whether the concept of a department store is still relevant. A broad range of goods was once what made these retailers stand out but online retailers can now offer an unparalleled amount of choice. This ...

Furniture Retailing - UK

“The furniture market remains robust, as resilient consumer confidence, the return of real wage growth and a rise in new households maintained spending even as housing transactions cooled for a second year. The industry is dominated by furniture specialists but stores are taking an increasingly intermediary role as consumers migrate ...

June 2019

Convenience Stores - UK

“Driven by continued shifts in grocery buying behaviour, a good summer and key events, the convenience sector is estimated to have enjoyed its strongest growth in three years in 2018. The year also saw consolidation, meaning the leading two players now control around half the market which will continue to ...

May 2019

DIY Retailing - UK

“While spending on DIY continues to grow, the big-box retailers continue to decline as they struggle to deal with societal changes that are changing the way people buy home improvement products. Far more people now live in private rented accommodation while 36% of all homeowners are now over the age ...

Greetings Cards & Personal Stationery Retailing - UK

“The greetings card and personal stationery markets have held up, despite the tendency for so many forms of communication to be purely digital these days. Even with the availability of digital calendars and diaries, consumers remain enthusiastic about physical versions, responding to innovative and fashionable styling and buying journals and ...

April 2019

Footwear Retailing - UK

“It has been a disappointing 2018 for footwear, with very little growth in value terms. The market has undoubtedly been affected by the current political uncertainty in the UK and people have been less willing to spend. Therefore, retailers offering value for money have performed better than others. The unpredictable ...

March 2019

Specialist Food and Drink Retailers - UK

“Specialists have enjoyed two years of growth, helped by high inflation in 2017 and a return to growth in real wages in 2018. However, growth is forecasted to slow in the coming years and cost and convenience continue to be barriers to usage. Therefore it is important that specialists look ...

February 2019

Electrical Goods Retailing - UK

“Spending on electricals was strong in 2018. However increasingly this demand is falling outside of the specialist sector with online-only retailers, notably Amazon, the main benefactors. The short-term future for demand in the sector is uncertain, and we expect growth to slow in the coming years putting further pressure on ...

Christmas Gift Buying - UK

“It was not a great Christmas, but it was not the disaster that some early reports suggested either. Demand slowed in the final quarter and some sales were pulled forward to November by early discounting. It’s an immensely challenging time for retailers, but whether they trade online, in stores or ...

Optical Goods Retailing - UK

“The takeover of Tesco Opticians by Vision Express at the end of 2017 marks a major change, injecting a ‘big 3’ opticians’ brand into more than 200 supermarket sites. In 2019 Asda’s own opticians’ operation is likely to gain from the proposed merger of Asda with Sainsbury’s creating stiff competition ...

January 2019

Beauty and Personal Care Retailing - UK

“The UK beauty and personal care market continues to be characterised by the polarised performance of the two core categories. Consumers continue to cut back on personal care, but are willing to spend on beauty. Health and beauty specialists have benefited from this trend, with robust demand for beauty fuelling ...