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"Food retailing is going through particularly difficult times. There is deflation in most markets, which puts pressure on profitability unless there can be compensating cost savings. The hard discounters have revitalised their offer and are an increasingly powerful force in many countries."

- Richard Perks, Director of Retail Research

This report looks at the following areas:

The main focus of this report is the five major European countries – France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK. Together they account for around 60% of all European retail sales (excluding Russia). But in the European summary we include summary data about the other leading markets in Europe, together with details about the top 60 leading food retailers across all Europe. More information about smaller countries can be found in the European Retail Handbook, September 2016 and in the European Retail Rankings, which will be published in December 2016.

The focus of this report is supermarkets, but the market size used is all food retailers. Supermarkets dominate food retailing across Europe taking around 87% of all food retailers' sales. The trend towards ever larger stores is beginning to reverse in some countries and the specialists, though not the markets, are seeing their decline bottom out and even reverse. The trend to larger supermarkets seems to be coming to an end in the more developed markets with smaller convenience stores and hard discounters growing and taking market share.

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This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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Figure 342: Jerónimo Martins: Outlet data, 2011-15

Retail offering

E Leclerc

What we think

Forming buying groups to strengthen position

Drive format continues to fuel growth

Investment in stores and product range

Where next?

Company background

Company performance

Figure 343: E Leclerc: Group sales performance, excl. VAT, 2011-15

Figure 344: E Leclerc: Outlet data and sales per outlet, excl. VAT, 2011-15

Retail offering

Marks & Spencer (UK food)

What we think

Convenience food for treats and special occasions

Finding the right balance with availability

Innovation key to keeping offer fresh

Refocusing on the UK

Company background

Company performance

Figure 345: Marks & Spencer (UK food): Group sales performance, 2011/12-2015/16

Figure 346: Marks & Spencer (UK food): Food outlets, by format, 2011/12-2015/16

Figure 347: Marks & Spencer (UK food): Outlet data, 2011/12-2015/16

Retail offering

Mercadona

What we think

Digital Transformation Project

Continuing to invest in store network

International expansion

Where next?

Company background

Company performance

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Figure 348: Mercadona: Group financial performance, excl. VAT, 2011-15

Figure 349: Mercadona: Outlet data, 2011-15

Retail offering

Wm Morrison Group

What we think

Cutting prices...

...to better compete with discounters...

...and address shoppers' pricing concerns post-Brexit

More reasons to visit Morrisons stores

Tailoring product offering to suit local tastes

A more rewarding loyalty card scheme

Flagging up the in-store skills of its trained butchers, bakers and fishmongers

Morrisons.com expanding home delivery coverage

Company background

Company performance

Figure 350: Wm Morrison Group: Group financial performance, 2011/12-2015/16

Figure 351: Wm Morrison Group: Outlet data, 2011/12-2015/16

Retail offering

Ocado

What we think

Scaling up

UK grocery home delivery competition intensifies

Still no news on international partner

Pressure builds for more distribution centres

Company background

Company performance

Figure 352: Ocado group plc: Group financial performance, 2010/11-2014/15

Retail offering

Real (Metro Group)

What we think

Spin-off preparations on track

One-stop quick fix in-store curated recipe-based shopping experience

New cashless payment method to speed up transaction process and reduce queues

Bolstering freshness credentials

Piloting a new hybrid store concept

Hitmeister acquisition spurs online sales growth

Planned expansion of drive-through concept into more densely populated areas

Company background



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Company performance

Figure 353: Real: Group financial performance, 2011/12-2015/16

Figure 354: Real: Outlet data, 2011/12-2015/16

Retail offering

Rewe

What we think

Click-and-collect

Accelerated roll-out of self-checkout technology

Fierce competition drives development of group-wide store brand

Meeting time-strapped consumers' needs for convenient meal solutions

Expansion of smaller convenience food store format

Discount supermarket USP in Italy and Romania

Getting in on the Kaiser's Tengelmann deal

Company background

Company performance

Figure 355: Rewe: Group sales performance, 2011-15

Figure 356: Rewe: Outlet data and estimated sales per outlet, 2011-15
Figure 357: Rewe: Full-range stores and discount stores by country, 2015

Retail offering

J. Sainsbury

What we think

Argos

Distraction

Modest optimism

Company background

Company performance

Figure 358: Sainsbury's: Quarterly sales performance, Q1 2016-Q2 2017

Pharmacy

Figure 359: J. Sainsbury: Group financial performance, 2011/12-2015/16

Figure 360: J. Sainsbury: Outlet data, 2011/12-2015/16

Retail offering

Schwarz Group (Lidl, Kaufland)

What we think

Chasing Aldi in key markets

Changing strategy in France

Plans to break America

Tentative moves online

The Lidl shopper



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Company background

Company performance

Figure 361: Schwarz Group: Group sales performance, 2011/12-2015/16

Figure 362: Schwarz Group: Outlet data, 2011/12-2015/16

Retail offering

Spar International

What we think

Top-up grocery shopping opportunities

More reasons to visit Spar

Supporting consumers healthy food and lifestyle choices

New grocery delivery services

Own brand drive

Digital Leadership Store

Company background

Company performance

Figure 363: Spar International: Retail sales by country, 2011-15

Figure 364: Spar International: Outlets, 2011-15

Figure 365: Spar International: Retail sales area, 2011-15

Figure 366: Spar International: Sales per sq m, by country, 2011-15

Retail offering

Tesco

What we think

Success

Credit where it is due

Making the most of its assets

Retailing against the hard discounters

The problems of maturity

Outside the UK

Company background

Company performance

Figure 367: Tesco: Like-for-like sales performance (excluding fuel), H1 2015/16-H1 2016/17 Figure 368: Tesco, sales and share of food retailers sales, by country, 2014/15 and 2015/16

UK

RoI

Central Europe

Figure 369: Tesco: European businesses, 2016

Figure 370: Central Europe: Store portfolios, October 2016

Online

Fuel

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Tesco Bank

Tesco Mobile

Figure 371: Tesco Plc: Group financial performance, 2011/12-2015/16

Figure 372: Tesco Plc: Outlet data, 2011/12-2015/16

Retail offering

Waitrose

What we think

Store investment focus shifts

Re-affirming its core values

Waitrose 1 helps consolidates premium ranges

Experiential shopping

Online

Company background

Company performance

Figure 373: Waitrose: Group financial performance, 2011/12-2015/16

Figure 374: Waitrose: Outlet data, 2011/12-2015/16

Retail offering