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"Online is the growth sector in retailing everywhere. But it has reached strikingly different stages of development around Europe. There's a North-South Split with Northern Europe much further ahead than Southern Europe. It is tempting to say that the South will follow the North in due course and that the patterns established in the North will become the norm."

- Richard Perks, Director of Retail Research

This report looks at the following areas:

Mintel's Online Retailing – Europe, July 2019 focuses on the five major economies in Europe, though we do also include estimates for 14 smaller, but important economies in the Executive Summary – The Market section. In total these countries account for around 95% of all European retail sales, excluding Russia. Online retailing is developing fast, even in the most developed online markets. But the level of development varies considerably and, in general, southern Europe lags well behind Northern Europe.

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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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35-44s have the broadest repertoire online

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Figure 204: Repertoire of product categories purchased from online in the past year, by age, May 2019

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Amazon the dominant player

Four retailers account for 45% of the market

Boots the most trusted brand online

Visual search and AR use on the rise

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Amazon the leading player

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Headline: Amazon responsive and reliable, John Lewis and Ocado perceived as more expensive Figure 232: Brand personality – micro image, September 2018-June 2019

Brand analysis

Amazon near-universal brand awareness and highest lifetime usage

ao.com offers a reasonably good online service, but not particularly good value for money

Argos high brand awareness and accessible, but lacks cutting edge and style

John Lewis pricey, but worth paying more for

ASOS innovative and fun

Boots trustworthy, accessible and reliable

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Ocado low usage and untrustworthy

eBay innovative, good online service, value for money and highly recommended

JD Williams functional and basic, rather than innovative or cutting edge

Boohoo/Boohoo Man low brand awareness and low lifetime usage

Littlewoods high brand awareness but least recommended

Very accessible and somewhat aspirational

Launch Activity and Innovation

eBay opens high-street concept store

Expanded online delivery options

Augmented reality technology to give shoppers more certainty when purchasing items online

Image-based shopping

Voice-activated beauty shopping

Amazon launches private label skincare brand

'Try before you buy' fashion service

New parcel postboxes scheme rolled out to make online retail easier

Geo-targeted delivery-on-demand

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Online retail advertising spend up 20.9% year-on-year in 2018

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Argos

What we think

Using voice recognition technology as part of the online ordering process

'See before you buy' augmented reality tool

Beefed up fulfilment capabilities

Accelerated technology-led 'digital store' concept

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Retail offering

ASOS

What we think

Getting tough on 'serial returners'

Bolstering CSR credentials with charity shop initiative

Making shopping online for clothing easier

Tailored experience for specific markets

Becomes the latest fashion retailer to introduce its own homewares collection

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Retail offering

Boohoo Group

What we think

Acquisitions transform Boohoo into a multi-brand online fashion destination

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Fulfilment refinements to enhance convenience

Celebrity collaborations and influencer network

Tackling fast fashion waste

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Figure 247: Boohoo Group plc: group financial performance, 2014/15-2018/19

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Cdiscount

What we think

Ramping up geographical expansion

Diversification boosts revenues

Loyalty programme continues to drive growth

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Fulfilment improvements maintain competitiveness and sharpen efficiency

Payment improvements seek to increase range of options

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Optimised online user experience

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Product diversification to establish a presence in new product growth categories

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Missguided

What we think

Enhanced payment option with new 'buy now, pay later' service

Online to offline with mixed success

Meeting the demand for 'see now, buy now'

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Reimagining the fashion mcommerce experience with Tinder-inspired app

Influencer marketing and celebrity tie-ups amplify the brand's reach and engagement

Needs to do more to promote sustainable fashion

Targeting the Middle East's youthful demographic

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Speedy click-and-collect order fulfilment

Positioning itself as a one-stop shop for online fashion and homewares

Website developments aimed at enhancing online user experience

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Company performance

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Retail offering

Otto Group (Multichannel Retail)

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What we think

Time-saving and convenient automated shopping experiences

Faster delivery with new instant payment system

Experimental store concept combining the advantages of bricks-and-mortar retailing with those of online shopping

Raising awareness of sustainability and eco-friendly credentials

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Veepee (formerly Vente-Privée)

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Bizarre UK exit about-turn suggests lack of commitment

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Further synergies possible

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What we think

YNAP gives a much-needed boost to Richemont's online presence

Increased co-operation with other brands in the Richemont family

Alibaba deal provides China boost

Customer service enhancements focus on personalisation

Where now?

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	Expansion of loyalty scheme to strengthen relationship with customers
	Virtual stylist to aid customers through the decision making process
	Charging delivery fees to offset falling average order size and higher fulfilment costs
	Combatting 'wardrobing'
	Eyeing growth through beauty
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	Tackling the problem of packaging waste
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Retail offering

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