

Convenience Stores - UK - April 2015

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“The continued development of the convenience store market has been driven by the understanding of the change in grocery buying habits. Consumers, particularly younger consumers, are shopping for less more frequently and the leading convenience store retailers have developed a format to both cater to and nurture this behaviour.”
– Nick Carroll, Retail Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- Which locations are convenience stores most used in?
- What demographics are worth focusing on and who are the most frequent shoppers?
- Use of convenience stores for top-up and main shopping
- The impact of online and the discounters on c-stores
- Replacing footfall lost from the declining markets of traditional footfall drivers

In recent years the convenience market has benefitted from increased investment from the major grocery retailers. This has raised standards across the market and brought a greater focus on fresh, frozen and food-to-go products expanding the range of needs that convenience store operators can accommodate.

Alongside this the market has benefitted from both the growth in online shopping and more recently the rise of the discount retailers. Shopping at these two grocery formats requires a level of top-up shopping and the convenience market was and remains well placed to pick up this demand.

Convenience stores have also benefited from the changing grocery shopping habits of younger consumers, a key demographic for the market. Younger consumers are increasingly shopping on a when needs basis – smaller more frequent shops that include food-to-go purchases. The convenience market has in some part facilitated this changing behaviour.

The market continues to out-grow the overall grocery market although growth slowed in 2014 to in part due to lower food prices.

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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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