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This report looks at the following areas:

- The likely impact of the impending cost of living crisis on the beauty and personal care retailing sector
- How people shop for beauty and personal care products and which retailers they use
- The winners and losers in the beauty and personal care retailing sector since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak
- How behaviours of beauty and personal care shoppers have changed compared to before the pandemic
- The growth of the online channel within the beauty and personal care category and specifically the gains made by this channel since the pandemic began.

We're seeing an ongoing decline in the number of people shopping in-store for beauty and personal care products; 85% in 2021, compared to 90% in 2020 and 94% in 2019 according to our consumer research. This drop in traffic will be of major concern for retailers in this sector and an important determinant of future success will be how they act to bring customers back in-store.

Prices of beauty and personal care items are already creeping up, and it's likely that many cash-strapped consumers will trade down and buy less, while the more comfortable will look for value in other ways, such as convenience and price/quality ratio.

Younger people are an important demographic for beauty specialists, with 30% of 16-24 year-olds purchasing make-up in the last year and 44% facial skincare. But they have the lowest engagement of the age groups in the important categories of fragrance, body skincare and haircare. It's an area of concern too that many young people are telling us that they are using less make-up and focusing more on skincare. Retailers need to understand the reasons for this and adapt their ranges, marketing and communications accordingly.



"The more discretionary end of BPC spending will see a stronger impact from the increases in the cost of living, but retailers need to go beyond the blunt instrument of price in their reaction to this. Consumer attitudes and behaviours are changing and they are looking for products and ways of shopping that appeal to their individual needs and concerns."

Natalie Macmillan, Senior European Retail Analyst

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We found considerable interest in measures and innovations related to sustainability, highlighting opportunities for retailers to demonstrate their commitments in this area. Recycling, reducing packaging and products tagged as natural, organic, vegan or carbon-neutral are all areas of interest for consumers, but retailers need to be honest and transparent in their communications in order to avoid accusations of greenwashing.

What's included

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