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### This report looks at the following areas:

- The impact of the cost of living crisis on the beauty and personal care sector and how savvy shopping consumers are adapting
- Channels used to shop for beauty and personal care goods and which retailers they use
- Key strategies adopted by consumers to cut back on beauty and personal care spending during the cost of living crisis
- Attitudes of beauty and personal care shoppers towards areas of innovations among retailers.

The sales of specialist beauty and personal care retailers held up remarkably well during 2021 and 2022, as the cost of living crisis began to bite. While we've seen real-terms declines in spending on food and drink, the beauty and personal care sector has continued to grow in real terms, reflecting the importance consumers continue to place on their appearance.

Not only have shoppers' finances been impacted by the general increase in prices in Italy (driven mostly by energy price rises), prices of personal care goods and services continue to rise into 2023 and show little sign of plateauing at the moment. As a result, shoppers are becoming more savvy, shopping around for discounts, comparing prices, using less of products and switching to cheaper products.

Amazon has a consumer penetration level for beauty and personal care products equal to that of the market-leading specialist, Acqua e Sapone. If specialist retailers (and particularly those with large store-based estates) are going to remain relevant to shoppers in the future, they are going to have to give them a more compelling reason to visit stores instead of buying online.

With shoppers so price-conscious, retailers have an opportunity to tempt them with discounts and special deals only available to members of their loyalty schemes, in the way we have seen in the grocery sector, as a way of stopping



"The major chains of specialist beauty and personal care retailers, which are still primarily store-based businesses, have an opportunity to help their customers deal with the cost of living crisis by using discounts to build goodwill and increase loyalty which will bear fruit in the future."

- Michael Oliver, Senior Retail Analyst

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the 'cherry picking' of deals from different retailers. This could also help to concentrate more sales among those retailers with loyalty schemes and offset the hit to margins from the discounting through increased sales volumes.

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