

# E-COMMERCE & RETAIL MEDIA FORECAST

A Report From GroupM, WPP's Media Investment Group

SEPTEMBER 2022



# THIS YEAR NEXT YEAR

INTRODUCTION	03
THE STATE OF RETAIL	05
RETAIL SALES	05
GLOBAL E-COMMERCE SALES	06
MARKET GROWTH	08
E-COMMERCE RANKINGS	08
DEFINING RETAIL MEDIA	11
GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS	14
CHINA	14
U.S.	16
U.K.	17
GERMANY	18
JAPAN	19
CANADA	20
AUSTRALIA	21
AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS	23

THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS

## INTRODUCTION



The smart money for 2022's Word of the Year may very well be on "hybrid." It encompasses so much of our current multi-front transformation where we are neither back to old forms of communication, energy, shopping and working, yet neither are we fully green, virtual or automated. We are living in a world of hybrid working, hybrid cars and hybrid shopping behaviors. Retailers who spun up or invested in e-commerce capabilities during the pandemic (2020's Word of the Year), are continuing to target ever greater ratios of e-commerce sales. And yet the trend line isn't simply "up and to the right" as some physical shopping has returned in markets with high production and adoption figures for the COVID-19 vaccine (2021's Word of the Year).



This year, the underlying digitization trends have been complicated by ongoing supply chain disruptions (and the resulting call for de-globalization), soaring inflation and decelerating retail sales. China has reduced their economic growth estimates for the year amid strict and long-lasting COVID-19 containment strategies and a range of other economic and financial risks. The U.K., which saw a massive leap in e-commerce sales and penetration as well as digital advertising revenue throughout the pandemic, is now facing double-digit inflation and the specter of rising gas and heating costs, with the lowest income households disproportionately affected. Yet as we stated in June's edition of *This Year Next Year*, it is not a foregone conclusion that we are headed for a widespread and deep recession. To understand where consumer spending, retailers and advertisers are likely to go from here, we can study the largest markets and companies providing data.

#### **OUR ANALYSIS HAS LED TO THESE KEY FINDINGS:**

- 1. We estimate global e-commerce will make up 19% of global retail sales in 2022, growing to 25% by 2027.
- 2. Twenty of the top global e-commerce companies accounted for 67% of global e-commerce sales in 2021.
- 3. Global retail media is likely to reach \$101 billion in 2022 (15% higher than a year ago) and will hit \$160 billion in annual revenue in five years' time.
- 4. The high-water mark for advertising revenue today equates to approximately 5% of GMV, which under the right circumstances could be a reasonable target for others who presently fall somewhere between 0% and 3% today.
- 5. Over the next one to three years, retail media will likely see greater competition, more frequent decoupling of data from inventory and greater participation by non-endemic brands.



THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH





Retail sales are often pointed to as a signal for the health of a given economy, but in most years, retail sales account for less than half of what is spent by consumers on services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the ratio of "goods" and "services" shifted. Most consumers weren't spending on transportation, travel, leisure and entertainment services as they normally would have. Instead, people were equipping home offices, upgrading electronics and embarking on DIY home improvement projects, shifting more consumer expenditure out of services and into goods. In the U.S., consumer spending on goods grew more than 20% over 2019 levels for each month from March through December of 2021, as the country experienced lockdowns of various durations and breadth and a massive shift to working from home. In Australia, goods expenditure has outpaced services expenditure on an indexed basis since March of 2020.

Concurrently, global advertising revenue recorded growth of 24% in 2021, all the more remarkable as the 2020 figure represented only a small decline of 2%. The outsize growth of retail sales, the shift within that to e-commerce sales and the condensed time frame of those changes likely contributed to greater advertising intensity and advertising revenue as a result. Advertising intensity can be measured as the ratio of advertising expense to company revenue. It is a useful lens through which to view the events of the last two years and also the players driving ad revenue growth globally. Our research indicates higher advertising intensity for goods-and productbased companies versus services companies, helping illustrate why 2021 was such a banner year for advertising growth.



U.S. consumer spending on goods grew more than 20% over 2019 levels for each month from March through December of 2021."

66

THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS

#### THE STATE OF RETAIL

# GLOBAL E-COMMERCE SALES

E-commerce sales are a subset of global retail sales, and while retail sales figures are regularly reported by government agencies, not all markets provide figures for e-commerce sales as expeditiously. Our model estimates global e-commerce sales of \$5.4 trillion dollars this year. China and the U.S. alone will make up 52% of the figure, and nearly 61% of the total, \$3.3 trillion, can be attributed to just seven markets: the U.S., China, Japan, Germany, the U.K., Canada and Australia. By 2027 we estimate e-commerce sales will reach \$9.1 trillion. This figure includes sales of autos and auto parts, as well as gasoline, but excludes food services or catering sales to produce like-for-



like comparisons across all tracked markets.

**\$28.3 TN**GLOBAL RETAIL SALES

**\$5.4 TN** E-COMMERCE SALES

# GLOBAL AD REVENUE 2022

\$101 BN RETAIL MEDIA

**\$843 BN**GLOBAL AD REVENUE

Today, e-commerce, after a surge of investment and adoption during the pandemic, is finding its place in a world where in-person activities are resuming even while pandemic-related lockdowns in China and supply chain bottlenecks there and in war-torn Ukraine have contributed to a drag on growth in the first half of 2022. We now predict that e-commerce will represent 19% of global retail sales in 2022, up from 18% in 2021 and 2020.

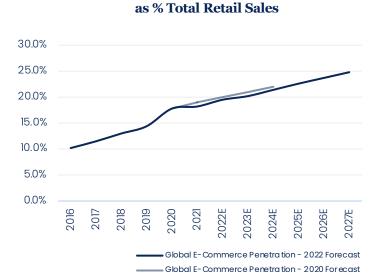
... e-commerce will represent 19% of global retail sales in 2022."

Supported by \$101 billion in retail media.

THE STATE OF RETAIL



**Global E-Commerce Sales** 

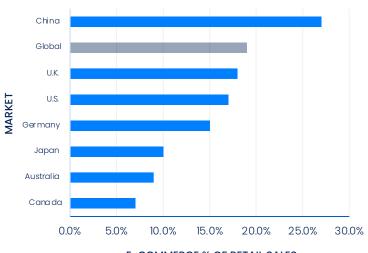


To look at the yearly e-commerce penetration numbers by market is to see the timeline of the pandemic played out in peaks and troughs. China, where e-commerce sales jumped to more than 26% of all retail sales in 2020 as COVID-19 prompted shutdowns across Wuhan, actually saw e-commerce penetration fall in 2021 as the country eased restrictions. The ratio of e-commerce sales is expected to rise again in 2022, to 27%, due to various shutdowns imposed by the Chinese government in Shanghai, Chengdu and several port cities as part of its COVID-19 zero tolerance policy. However, this is against a backdrop of slower overall growth of retail sales as multiple factors stunt consumer spending and e-commerce is expected to level out in the ensuing years. The U.K. by comparison, which saw the largest e-commerce adoption spike of our tracked markets in 2020 -47% growth — spent much of 2021 in various levels of lockdown but has resumed relative normalcy in 2022 and is expected to report a decline in e-commerce penetration to 18% in 2022 (versus 20% in 2021). The U.S. has unsurprisingly seen more moderate and consistent growth as lockdowns there were primarily at the local or state level, and never reached the severity or size of China's lockdowns. E-commerce in the U.S. is forecast to represent 17% of all retail sales this year, a significant increase over the 11% figure in 2019.

Among the major global markets we have highlighted in this report, only three are forecast to see 10% or lower e-commerce penetration in 2022: Australia. Japan and Canada. Japan, while boasting the thirdlargest global economy and a long history of technological innovation, also lays claim to the oldest population, with 29% of its population age 65 or older as of 2021, a potential drag on adoption. Australia and Canada, while relatively younger, have populations spread across large and not very dense territories. And Canada, despite being home to Shopify, is forecast to lag behind all other tracked markets in e-commerce penetration through 2027, when it could still see sub-10% of all retail sales.

It is important to note that the line is becoming increasingly blurred between physical sales and e-commerce sales, especially following the COVID-era explosion of retail offerings such as buy online pick up in store (BOPIS), click-and-collect or in-store contactless mobile phone payments. This blurriness may render e-commerce penetration less meaningful in the future as it becomes harder to distinguish which channel to credit for sales. What is more certain is that omnichannel strategies must be de rigueur for retailers and advertisers going forward.

#### **E-Commerce Penetration** by Market (2022)



**E-COMMERCE % OF RETAIL SALES** 

Note: Includes auto and parts sales and gasoline, excludes food services

7 1 OECD

group $^m$ 

INTRODUCTION

THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS

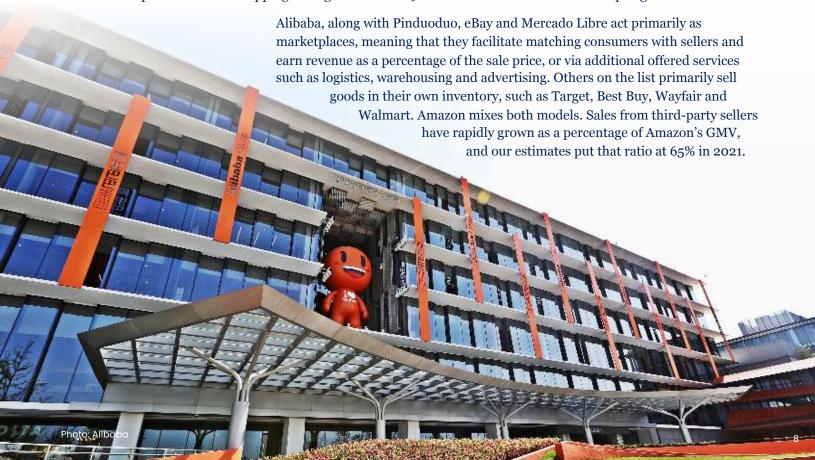


Alibaba is the undisputed leader with more than double the e-commerce GMV of Amazon."

# E-COMMERCE COMPANY RANKINGS

As with our flagship advertising forecast, *This Year Next Year*, where we build our analysis on the health of media sellers, for this forecast we have examined the largest e-commerce retailers globally to understand the health and growth of the sector. To keep the analysis focused, and in an attempt to compare like-for-like data, we have included retailers selling owned inventory as well as marketplaces. We have excluded companies primarily focused on last mile restaurant delivery as food services are also omitted from our e-commerce sales data. In addition, we have excluded advertising services companies like Criteo — to limit the double-counting of retail media — as well as software providers like Shopify and sales through Google Shopping or social commerce players like Meta and TikTok.

Unsurprisingly, Chinese retailers make up three of the top five retailers by global e-commerce gross merchandise value (GMV) with Amazon and eBay rounding out the other two spots (though Shopify would replace eBay at #5 if included). Alibaba is the undisputed leader and counts more than double the e-commerce GMV of the number two, Amazon. Alibaba has dominated the mobile commerce and payments ecosystem with Alipay (along with Tencent competitor WeChat), and certainly benefited from heavy adoption of mobile shopping during the COVID-19 outbreaks in China in 2020 and spring of 2022.





THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS

There is no doubt that the pandemic lifted the fortunes of any e-commerce retailer already established, or ready to invest in becoming established during the first year of the pandemic. For our *E-Commerce Top 20*, the median GMV growth rate in 2020 was an impressive 60% year-over-year. And there remained plenty of headroom for a median growth rate of 21% in 2021. We estimate that this number will decelerate meaningfully in 2022 as life in many countries returns to incorporate more offline activities, as supply chain shortages continue to limit the availability of certain goods and as high inflation maintains its grip on many large economies. We also expect demand for some product categories, including electronics, fitness equipment, household goods and furniture, to soften after stimulus payments (in some countries) and new home-based work and life led to pandemic buying sprees.

The benefits of e-commerce growth over the last six years have become more concentrated among our Top 20, which represented just 49% of global e-commerce sales in 2016 but accounted for 67% of those sales in 2021. Excluding the Chinese retailers from this analysis, we can see that concentration is still increasing, but hasn't reached nearly the same level with our top 16 ex-China companies representing 32% of e-commerce sales in 2021, up from 24% in 2016.



In 2020, the median e-commerce GMV growth rate for these companies was 60% year-over-year."

**Top E-Commerce Companies (USD\$ Billions)** 

E-Commerce GMV	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Alibaba	541.4	664.9	802.3	942.0	1,123.2	1,249.0
Amazon	179.3	230.0	278.6	337.6	491.9	602.0
JD	94.8	199.0	243.9	299.5	400.4	505.3
Pinduoduo	4.1	20.6	68.6	144.6	255.6	383.0
еВау	81.4	84.1	88.2	88.3	87.6	85.0
Walmart	13.7	19.6	25.1	39.7	64.9	73.2
Shopee	1.3	4.1	10.3	17.6	35.4	62.6
Rakuten	19.7	22.3	24.9	25.6	29.6	32.8
Mercado Libre	8.0	12.0	12.5	14.0	20.9	28.4
Vipshop	11.3	15.8	19.2	21.0	22.7	26.0
Instacart	0.3	0.6	1.5	4.3	13.2	22.4
The Home Depot	5.3	6.4	8.1	9.8	18.4	20.0
Target	3.1	3.9	5.3	6.8	16.5	19.8
Best Buy	6.3	6.5	7.1	8.3	20.4	17.8
Coupang	1.5	2.2	3.8	5.8	11.0	16.5
Zalando	4.3	5.3	6.6	8.2	10.7	14.4
Costco	4.7	5.2	5.7	6.8	10.6	13.9
Wayfair	3.4	4.6	6.8	9.1	14.1	13.7
Etsy	2.8	3.3	3.9	5.0	10.3	13.5
Kroger	1.7	3.2	5.0	6.5	13.9	13.5
Global E-Commerce Sales	2,028.0	2,442.7	2,918.7	3,385.8	4,156.1	4,802.7
Total Top 20 As % of Global E-Commerce	48.7%	53.8%	55.8%	59.1%	64.3%	66.9%

Source: GroupM, Company Filings

 $\mathsf{group}^m$ 

INTRODUCTION

THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS

#### **TOP E-COMMERCE COMPANIES IN 2021**







(USD\$ IN BILLIONS)

NORTH AMERICA

_	AMAZUN
	E-Commerce GMV 602.0

5	EBAY	
	E-Commerce GMV	85.0

0	WALMAKI
	E-Commerce GMV 73.2

INSTACART	
E-Commerce GMV 22.	4

12	THE HOME DEPOT	
	F-Commerce GMV	20.0

13	TARGET
	E-Commerce GMV 19.8

14	BEST BUY
	E-Commerce GMV 17.8

17	COSTCO
	E-Commerc

2-Commerce	GMV	V	13.9

10	WATFAIK	
	E-Commerce GMV	13.7

19	ETSY	
	E-Commerce GMV 13	3.5

20	KROGER	
	F Commorco CMV	10.5

LATIN AMERICA

#### 9 MERCADO LIBRE

Ŀ-	Commerce	GM A	V	28.4

**EUROPE** 

#### 16 ZALANDO

E-Commerce GMV...... 14.4

#### **EAST ASIA**

#### 1 ALIBABA

E-Commerce GMV.... 1,249.0

#### 3 JD

E-Commerce GMV...... 505.3

#### 4 PINDUODUO

E-Commerce GMV..... 383.0

#### **8 RAKUTEN**

E-Commerce GMV...... 32.8

#### **10 VIPSHOP**

E-Commerce GMV...... 26.0

#### 15 COUPANG

E-Commerce GMV...... 16.5

#### **SOUTHEAST ASIA**

#### 7 SHOPEE

E-Commerce GMV...... 62.6

THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH





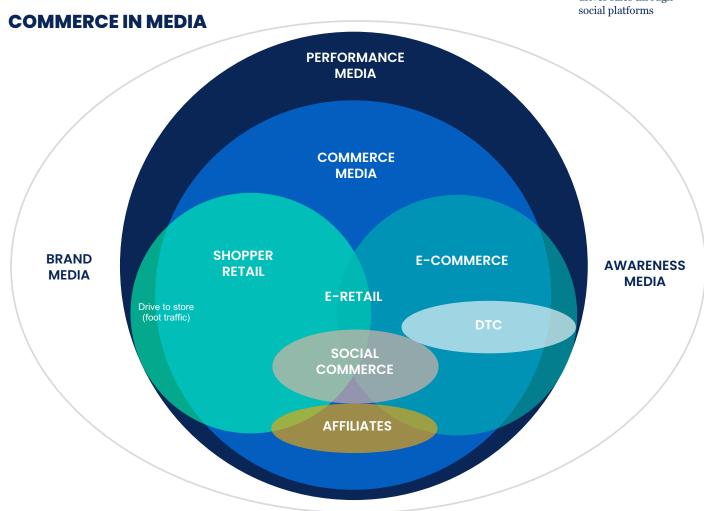
# **DEFINING RETAIL MEDIA**

#### **OUR DEFINITION**

For the purposes of this report, we define retail media revenue as:

any advertising revenue accruing to a retail-based company, including marketplaces. We have excluded pure-play marketing solutions, software providers and ad tech companies such as Shopify, Pacvue and Criteo (this also helps avoid double counting where these companies use gross revenue figures). We have also excluded revenue from non-retail-based companies comprising search and social commerce revenue including Google Shopping, Yahoo Shopping and Instagram Shopping.

- **Performance Media** drives a connected & measurable action or outcome
- **Commerce Media** drives the activity of consumer purchase
- **Shopper Retail** drives the activity of consumer purchase
- E-Retail drives sales on partner properties (retail.com)
- E-Commerce drives sales on online
- DTC drives sales on brand.com
  - **Social Commerce** drives sales through social platforms



THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS



Retail media, considered a test and learn environment not so long ago, has more recently become a growing line item on many marketer budgets. There remain significant disparities in capability depth, data quality and partnerships across global markets and within retail channels, but the promise of retailer first-party data, albeit residing in yet another walled garden, is tantalizing — enabling purchase-based targeting and closed loop measurement.

GroupM estimates that global advertising revenue for retail-based companies was \$88 billion in 2021 and will reach \$101 billion this year. This amounts to 18% of global digital advertising and 11% of total advertising. As a percentage of global e-commerce GMV, this amounts to 1.8%. We expect retail media advertising to increase roughly 60% by 2027. This exceeds the growth rate expected for all digital advertising, meaning that retail media will take an increasing share of digital ad revenue over the next five years.

# This amounts to 18% of global digital advertising & 11% of total advertising."



Only some of the companies in our composite disclose advertising revenue, and of those that do, most only recently began disclosing a figure. We estimate Amazon as being at the far end of the spectrum when it comes to advertising revenue as a percentage of e-commerce GMV. While Amazon doesn't disclose how much of their total advertising revenue comes from commerce-related activity (as compared to advertising revenue from sports programming, for example), we would characterize the vast majority of that revenue to be directly attributable to e-commerce or informed by the company's first-party retail data, and equal to roughly 5% of e-commerce GMV.

This 5% high-water mark for advertising revenue *could* be a reasonable target for others (who presently fall somewhere between 0% and 3% today), although it will be dependent on a retailer's ability to build out their media product offerings globally in order to create competition among significant numbers of manufacturers for the privilege of reaching prospects, and further developing a platform to sell impressions to non-endemic marketers. Scaling up inventory by partnering with publishers who can use the retailer's data to create heightened value in media impressions is another factor. We estimate that retail media will continue to grow, despite recent softness in overall e-commerce, driven by non-endemic brands as well as typical retail brands.

THE STATE OF RETAIL





#### PROLIFERATION OF RETAIL MEDIA NETWORKS

Even before the pandemic, digital technology and the addition of retailer APIs drove the development of retail media networks and specialist ad tech firms. Retailers sought higher margin advertising businesses, and as e-commerce penetration shot up through 2020 and 2021, there were frequent announcements of new retail media networks, including from non-retailers — Doordash, Uber and Meituan are all building out their media offerings. We haven't included them here, as our definition for e-commerce sales excludes services like restaurant delivery and ride-sharing, which still make up the majority of advertising revenue for these services, but increased deliveries of food and other goods will likely make them sizable additions in future iterations of the forecast.

While we expect the proliferation of these networks to continue in the years to come, there is also an expectation of inevitable rationalization across networks and technologies. Scalability, differentiation and staying power, particularly in the context of the broader economic situation, will be the battle ground for many of the newer networks and their supporting technologies.

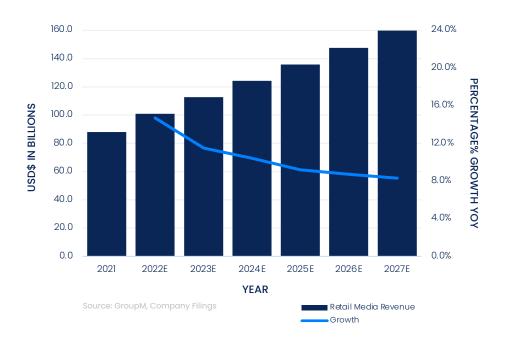
## Retailers with highly adopted loyalty programs are likely in a stronger position."

#### **EXPANSION OF USE CASES**

In early retail media programs, the majority of advertising inventory lived on a retailer's ownedand-operated platforms, however "off-site" opportunities have opened up additional inventory and budgets. Going forward, some retailers are experimenting with the separation of their data and ad inventory entirely, a move that offers brands additional flexibility as partners, but also risks commoditization. Retailers that are better able to trace sales, for example those with highly adopted loyalty programs, are likely in a stronger position.

Separating out retail data from inventory could also lead to non-endemic brands advertising in greater numbers, provided that the premium being paid to activate on retail data is supported by an equal or greater increase in performance.

#### **Retail Media Forecast**



#### **FUTURE OF RETAIL MEDIA**

Fueling the nearly 60% growth of retail media over the next five years are a number of factors the expansion of use cases and growth of non-endemic brands mentioned above, as well as potential shifts from outside of traditional sales and marketing budgets, incorporating incremental spend from other media channels.

INTRODUCTION THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

**GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS** 





#### TOP 3 ONLINE SHOPPING PLATFORM ADS

Live Streams

Messages to platforms

**Push-notifications** from app

#### TOP 3 PRODUCT CATEGORIES BOUGHT ONLINE IN PAST 12 MONTHS

Groceries

Household

Beauty & Personal Care

#### FREQUENCY OF BUYING ONLINE

33% once every few days 3%

once a week

#### **GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

# CHINA

In 2022, we estimate China's e-commerce market will grow by 5.6%, slower than last year's growth of 10%. For the year, we estimate that total retail will amount to CN¥40 trillion, with e-commerce accounting for 27% of this figure. Over the next five years, growth will track in line with retail sales growth, meaning that e-commerce penetration will remain relatively flat through 2027 versus the 19% growth from 2016 through 2021. By 2027 retail sales will amount to CN¥52 trillion with 27% of retail occurring via e-commerce channels.

#### % OF ONLINE PURCHASES MADE VIA THE VARIOUS TYPES OF ONLINE STORES



**17**% once every two weeks

> once a month

2% less often

> 1x day

 $\mathsf{group}^m$ 

INTRODUCTION

THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

**GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS** 

# GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS CHINA





Since the beginning of the year there have been recurring outbreaks of COVID-19 across China, with several major cities seriously affected. This has caused another shock on offline consumption and consumer expectations, leading to a marked decline in household consumption since March. Although the initial impact of this year's outbreaks on the total retail sales of consumer goods is relatively slight compared to 2020, with the establishment of testing centers and policies aimed at buoying consumption, consumers continue to scrutinize purchases due to the ongoing spread of these outbreaks across multiple regions, and with e-commerce adoption peaking, competition among the players has opened on several fronts:

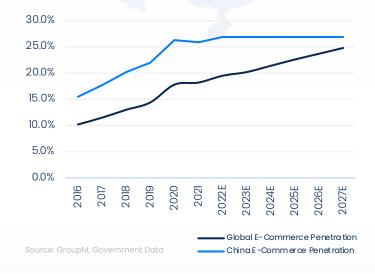
# BREADTH OF MERCHANTS AND GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

At a time when the economy is being affected by the coronavirus and is entering a period of weak growth, Chinese consumers are more likely to shift their focus to essential products in the short term. They are more sensitive to the prices of non-essential goods and are likely to cut down unnecessary spending. Under such circumstances, with the entry of new players (such as Douyin, Kuaishou, Tencent), incumbents have started to improve fulfillment capabilities and the variety of goods sold, including agricultural products. Domestic circulation has been advanced to improve rural e-commerce logistics and promote agricultural products to drive entrepreneurship and employment among farmers. In 2021, more than 80% of the country's rural areas were accessible to express delivery.

# ENTERTAINMENT AS A COMPONENT OF E-COMMERCE

Compared to traditional catalog-based e-commerce, emerging e-commerce trends increasingly emphasize entertainment. This is done with the intention of quickly stirring implicit shopping needs for "interesting products." Content production has become more refined, and there are higher requirements for live streamers and livestreaming operations with cultural connotations.

## China E-Commerce Sales as % Total Retail Sales



#### RAPID DELIVERY OR QUICK E-COMMERCE

While we have excluded food delivery services from our analysis, it is important to note that this is an expanding market in China with established giants Meituan (offering Flash Purchase of necessities or groceries) and Alibaba's ele.me both involved in instant retail to deliver necessities or groceries. Traditional e-commerce platforms are also developing competitive offerings. JD.com launched hourly purchases with Dada Express; Alibaba launched Maoxiang, a direct retail model with upgraded supply chain logistics; and Meituan teamed up with convenience stores to deploy 24-hour delivery and delivery within 30-minutes (Jisuda in Chinese).

THE STATE OF RETAIL



#### **GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

U.S.

During 2022, we estimate the U.S. e-commerce market will grow by 25%. For the year, we estimate that total retail will amount to \$7.2 trillion, with e-commerce accounting for 17% of this figure. Growth is likely to occur at a 14% CAGR over the next five years, and by 2027 e-commerce sales will amount to \$2.3 trillion, or 27% of all retail sales (by our definition, which includes autos and gas, but excludes food services).



# | Source: GroupM, Government Data | Sales | Sales | Sales | Source: GroupM, Government Data | Sales |

In the U.S. (as in some other markets) retail sales are growing more quickly than e-commerce sales through the second quarter of 2022 as inflation raises the prices of food and gas especially, goods that are purchased offline by most consumers. Some categories, such as building materials and garden equipment, saw significant growth.

Although it remains a relatively small share of the sector's total, we think that retail media should reach \$33 billion in 2022 after rising from next to nothing several years ago. We think growth should generally outpace all other major forms of digital media in the years ahead.

#### **RETAIL E-COMMERCE MARKET LEADERS**











# E-COMMERCE TRENDS Q2 2022 VERSUS Q2 2021



**+27**% building materials, garden equipment, etc.



**-9%** electronics & appliance



+8% health & personal care



THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

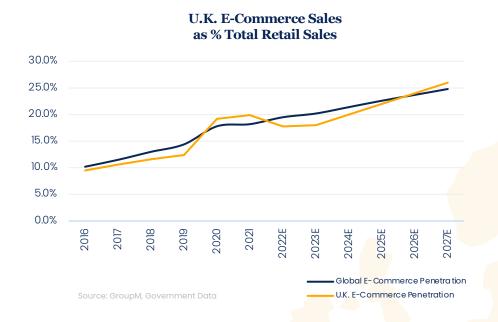
**GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS** 



#### **GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

# U.K.

During 2022, we estimate the U.K. e-commerce market will decline by 3.6%, which is a reversal from last year's growth of 15% and average five-year CAGR of 20%. The U.K.'s precipitous growth through 2020 and 2021, spurred by multiple COVID-related lockdowns, perhaps left the country with less headroom for continued rapid growth in 2022, especially against a tight economic backdrop and a return to non-home-based work and life. For the year, we estimate that total retail will amount to £738 billion, with e-commerce accounting for 18% of this figure. E-commerce growth will decelerate to 13% on a compound basis over the next five years, and by 2027 the total retail sales figure will amount to £909 billion with 26% of retail occurring via e-commerce channels.



E-commerce as a percent of total retail sales in 2027 will reach

26%

In the U.K., we estimate e-commerce sales represented 17% of total retail sales during June 2022, which has slowed from 18% in June 2021. With more normalcy post the pandemic, the growth in e-commerce sales has slowed during the first half of 2022 although it remains higher than pre-COVID levels as more consumers spend more time online. The U.K. faces a number of challenges including rising inflation affecting consumer spending and global supply chain issues that will continue to impact the U.K. e-commerce market. In such challenging economic times, large incumbents may fare better than non-essential retail e-commerce players like Misguided, which has recently faced bankruptcy.

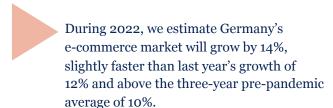
THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

**GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS** 

#### **GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

# ERMANY



For the year, we estimate that total retail will amount to €925 billion, with e-commerce accounting for 15% of this figure. Growth will likely continue similar to pre-pandemic levels, and by 2027 the figure could amount to €1.1 trillion with 21% of retail occurring via e-commerce channels.

E-food is the fastest growing category, and it sees the highest growth in average order value. Furniture and health & beauty are the next fastest growing e-commerce categories, according to HDE.



#### **RETAIL E-COMMERCE MARKET LEADERS**

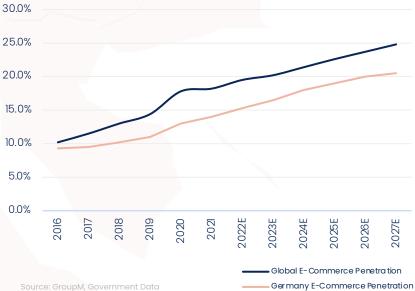






of retail will occur via e-commerce channels by 2027."

#### **Germany E-Commerce Sales** as % Total Retail Sales



THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

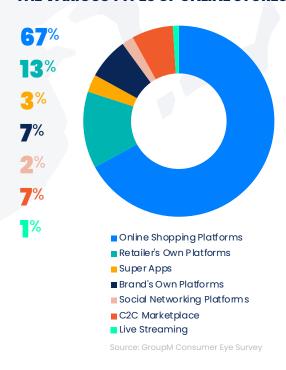
**GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS** 



# GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS JAPAN

During 2022, we estimate Japan's e-commerce market will grow by 12%, above last year's growth of 8.9% and the three-year pre-pandemic CAGR of 8.1%. For the year, we estimate that total retail will amount to JP¥156 trillion, with e-commerce accounting for 9.5% of this figure. Growth is likely to remain above pre-pandemic levels, and by 2027 retail sales will amount to JP¥169 trillion with 14% of retail occurring via e-commerce channels.

## % OF ONLINE PURCHASES MADE VIA THE VARIOUS TYPES OF ONLINE STORES

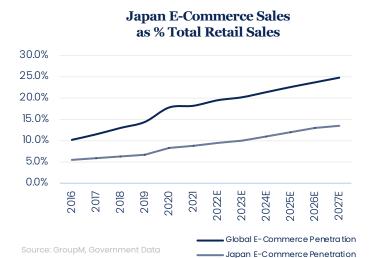


Amazon and Rakuten are the largest established players, competing with each other across the top product categories: household goods, groceries and electronics, which all saw exceptional growth during the pandemic. While there is high overlap of usage across both platforms, Rakuten has sought to differentiate via its superior points system, shopping events and product availability. This has influenced Rakuten's skew toward an older, housewife audience, whereas Amazon skews toward younger, working professional males.



There has been substantial growth measured in the last five years driven by high internet penetration and an increasing reliance on e-commerce due to the COVID-19 pandemic — with a majority of consumers still preferring to shop online rather than in store. The pandemic prevented many affluent consumers from traveling overseas or dining out, which resulted in a shift of spending to food delivery and purchases of luxury goods online.

Mobile commerce is expected to continue to grow even with an aging population that has traditionally preferred to use desktop computers for shopping. Alternative payment solutions such as PayPay, LINE Pay and Amazon Pay are also increasingly being used.



THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

#### GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS



# **GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS** CANADA



During 2022, we estimate Canada's e-commerce market will grow by 10.1%, below last year's growth of 17.3% and well below the three-year pre-pandemic CAGR of 22%. For the year, total retail sales will likely reach C\$737 billion, with e-commerce accounting for 6.9% of this figure. By 2027 retail sales are likely to be C\$901 billion with 8.4% occurring via e-commerce channels.

E-commerce sales continue to show a steady rate of increase moving into the second half of 2022, after double-digit growth in 2021. Canadian consumers are embracing electronic commerce amid disruption in traditional retail channels. There have been more than 27 million e-commerce users in Canada this year, accounting for 75% of the Canadian population; that number is expected to grow to 78% in 2025, according to the International Trade Administration (ITA).

Retail e-commerce sales in Canada are forecast to total C\$51 billion in 2022, more than double the C\$23 billion recorded 2019. While unable to sustain the precipitous growth seen over the heights of the pandemic — a common trend across the advertising industry as well retailers continue to invest in digital platforms to reach consumers dispersed over a vast land mass while also responding to competition from digital-natives like Amazon Canada.

As of January 2022, 55% of Canadians made online retail purchases with their mobile devices, and this trend is growing. Consumers aged 18-34 lead the trend, with 47% of these shoppers purchasing retail items via digital devices at least once a week, per the ITA.

Canadians tend to prefer supporting Canada-based online retailers, such as Loblaws, but American companies like Amazon and Walmart continue to lead the space. Retail media offerings within Canada have expanded in 2022 with the introduction of Instacart paid sponsorships and Loblaw's new DSP offerings.

#### **E-COMMERCE CONSUMER INSIGHTS**



of Canadians use

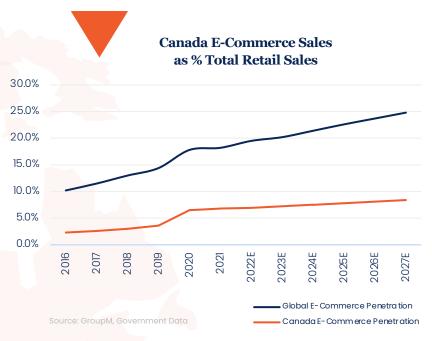
e-commerce



made purchases on mobile devices



of those 18-34 purchased 1x per week





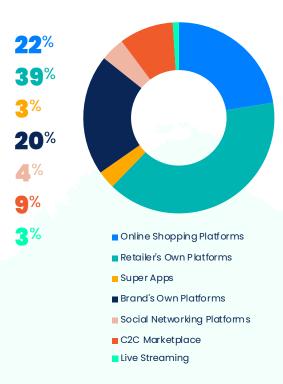
THE STATE OF RETAIL

#### MARKET GROWTH

#### **GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS**

## **GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS AUSTRALIA**

#### % OF ONLINE PURCHASES MADE VIA THE VARIOUS TYPES OF ONLINE STORES

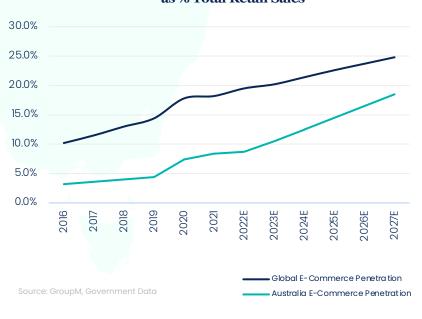


During 2022, we estimate Australia's e-commerce market will grow by 8.4%, below last year's growth of 24% as well as the pre-pandemic three-year CAGR of 15%. For the year, we estimate that total retail will amount to A\$504 billion with e-commerce accounting for 8.7% of this figure. By 2027 retail sales could amount to A\$602 billion with 19% of retail occurring via e-commerce channels.



Retail has continued to see growth nearly double the headline inflation rate, with demand remaining resilient even as consumer confidence falls sharply. Steep increases in housing and energy costs are expected to weaken demand among consumers with low or marginal free monthly cash flow in the second half of the year.

#### **Australia E-Commerce Sales** as % Total Retail Sales



THE STATE OF RETAIL

MARKET GROWTH

**GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS** 





Grocery and Fashion categories continue to dominate growth, with Coles and Woolworths both reporting approximately

> YoY growth in Calendar Q1 2022."

## **GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS AUSTRALIA**

E-commerce growth has shifted from a secular expansion driven by lockdowns to a value-proposition and loyalty-led growth. Digital commerce in Australia has seen 400,000 fewer monthly active shoppers, impacting discretionary purchases and mega sales sites, however stickier platforms and propositions have seen continued growth, including up to 50% year-over-year growth in grocery, according to company filings. Half of digital commerce sales volume is coming from only 13% of households, so the ability to attract, retain and grow sales through high customer lifetime value cohorts is proving key to long-term sustainable growth.

We expect growth in the second half of 2022 in Australia to decelerate as we cycle out of lockdowns and revert to traditional seasonal peaks and valleys. Food and beverage delivery, a top-three category, saw a material slowing of demand in June while still delivering the fastest growth of any vertical. But the overall ad market for e-commerce continues to expand, with more products becoming available across a growing number of platforms. These audiences are increasingly activated in the mid- and upper-funnel, but the importance of operating owned channels is growing as consumer acquisition costs and return on ad spend come under pressure.

Retail e-commerce marketing leaders are firmly establishing themselves in Australia. EBay has continued to innovate and show resilience following a period of deceleration, retaining its top position in the local digital commerce traffic. Amazon continues to outperform, with traffic up 20% versus the prior year, according to SimilarWeb.

Grocery and fashion categories are still seeing significant growth, with Coles and Woolworths both reporting approximately 50% year-over-year growth in calendar Q1. Click-and-collect remains a key pillar supporting this increase, with published data showing a consistent 14% of sales, even as household penetration sits at just under 10% for this vertical, according to Australia Post.



# **AUTHOR**



#### **KATE SCOTT-DAWKINS**

GLOBAL DIRECTOR, BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

### $group^m$

#### **CONTRIBUTORS**

#### **BRIAN WIESER**

GLOBAL PRESIDENT, BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE GROUPM

#### **NIDHI SHAH**

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ANALYST, GROUPM

#### **SEAN BONE**

GM DIGITAL COMMERCE, GROUPM AUSTRALIA

#### **SAM BUKOWSKI**

HEAD OF GLOBAL COMMERCE STRATEGY & OPERATIONS, GROUPM

#### **HENA CHUN**

HEAD OF COMMERCE, GROUPM JAPAN

#### **JOSE GEORGE**

TRADING MANAGER, GROUPM CANADA

#### **YOLANDA KO**

ASSC. DIRECTOR GROUPM KNOWLEDGE CHINA

#### **MIRA LONDON**

HEAD OF COMMERCE, GROUPM GERMANY

#### **TONI RUOTANEN**

HEAD OF COMMERCE, GROUPM APAC

#### **PETER SHIVERY**

GLOBAL COMMERCE STRATEGY DIRECTOR, GROUPM

#### WILL SORAINE

SR. DIRECTOR INVESTMENT, GROUPM CANADA

# $group^m$

3 World Trade Center 175 Greenwich Street New York, NY 10007

A WPP Company

GroupM is the world's leading media investment company with a mission to create a new era of media where advertising works better for people. Responsible for more than \$60 billion in annual media investment, according to COMvergence, the company innovates, differentiates, and generates sustained value for clients wherever they do business. GroupM's portfolio includes agencies Mindshare, Wavemaker, EssenceMediacom and mSix&Partners, as well as Choreograph (Data & Technology), GroupM Nexus (Cross-Channel Performance & Activation), and GroupM Investment.

All rights reserved. This publication is protected by copyright. No part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without written permission from the copyright owners.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the contents, but the publishers and copyright owners cannot accept liability in respect of errors or omissions. Readers will appreciate that the data is as up-to-date only to the extent that their availability, compilation and printed schedules will allow and are subject to change.

Photos on **Unsplash**.