

December 2015

Consumers and the Economic Outlook: Quarterly Update - UK

"Mintel's key measures of consumer confidence show that people are still wary. Although the improvements in sentiment that accompanied the end of the income squeeze have been sustained, 2015 has been a year of consolidation, rather than one of soaring consumer spirits. Earlier in the year, the election added ...

Seasonal Summer Fashion - UK

"As three quarters of Britons only purchase new clothing for a holiday or festival that they will be able to wear again, there is demand for retailers to offer more adaptable summer collections that are less seasonally defined and can be worn away from the beach and in the UK ...

November 2015

Designer Fashion - UK

"Designer fashion brands need to increasingly look at ways of attracting a new younger demographic of Millennials who aspire to buy their brands, without losing the exclusivity that is part of the appeal of owning a designer label. There is potential to launch less expensive sub-brands and to expand fashion ...

October 2015

Clothing Retailing - UK

"While clothing remains a highly resilient category, it is also a mature sector that is becoming increasingly overcrowded. As consumer expectations surrounding the shopping experience rise, retailers need to up their game and focus on the main issues that concern customers when buying clothes such as fit and availability of ...

September 2015

Jewellery Retailing - UK

"The jewellery retail market follows a strong year in 2014 when falling precious metal prices and economic improvements boosted spending in the market. Young women stand out as being the biggest purchasers of jewellery for themselves, driven by their appetite for branded jewellery and the trend for layering and stacking ...

August 2015

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"The generally positive outlook of the economic climate, and the benefits that are gradually being witnessed at the individual level, means that the people of Britain are finally regaining their confidence. For the first time since the economic downturn, Mintel's data shows that more people feel better off compared to ...

July 2015

Footwear Retailing - UK

"The footwear sector is exceptionally fragmented with footwear specialists losing share to non-specialists, as clothing retailers, sports stores and pureplays all grow their focus on the market. Specialists can use their expertise in the market to stand out by providing exceptional customer service and a wider range of shoes in ...

June 2015

Sports Fashion - UK

"Growth in the sportswear market in the UK is being driven by a trend for sporty clothing and footwear being worn both for sports and as leisurewear. Women are also showing more interest in the market and brands are responding by designing more stylish female sportswear."

May 2015

Womenswear - UK

"While women continue to prioritise buying new clothes over other areas of spend, with the womenswear market rising, sales slowed compared with the previous year due to high levels of discounting."

- **Tamara Sender, Senior Fashion Analyst**

April 2015

Department Store Retailing - UK

Watches - UK

"As the smartwatch market develops, the smartwatch could become the latest desirable fashion accessory, posing a direct threat to the fashion watch market as both attract a young demographic. While uptake of smartwatches has been slow due to caution surrounding first editions of new technologies, this is likely to change ...

Sports Goods Retailing - UK

"The specialist sporting goods market is estimated to have enjoyed a good 2014 with the market growing. We expect 2015 to be another good year for the market reflecting a more confident consumer who is more willing to spend on discretionary items."

- **Nick Carroll, Retail Analyst**

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"Economic improvements are finally beginning to be felt at the consumer level. Falling prices of essentials and rising wages are helping incomes go further and there are indications that people are beginning to relax their budgets and spend on items and experiences that have been out of reach during the ...

"The main department stores have been among the types of retailers leading the way in both expanding delivery options and click-and-collect as consumers are increasingly looking for the easiest and most convenient way to shop and receive their purchases."

– **Tamara Sender, Senior Fashion Analyst**

March 2015

Menswear - UK

"The men's clothing market has been growing at a faster rate than womenswear. Discounting has been a big issue across the clothing sector, but menswear is likely to have benefited from fewer men being interested in special offers than women."

– **Tamara Sender, Senior Fashion Analyst**

February 2015

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"People are finally starting to feel the benefit of the recovery in their pay packets. After five years, average wages are finally increasing more quickly than prices. Although this will take time to feed through into consumer confidence, there are signs that spending habits are changing."

Optical Goods Retailing - UK

"The market for optical goods in the UK is concentrating into the hands of three major companies: Specsavers, Boots Opticians and Vision Express. Although Specsavers is reaching saturation in terms of store numbers we have seen Boots on an expansion trail, while Vision Express has been expanding by buying up ..."

January 2015

Handbags - UK

"There is real growth potential for the men's accessories market as younger generations of men have become accustomed to using manbags, with 20% of 18-24s carrying one with them most of the time."

– **Tamara Sender, Senior Fashion Analyst**