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"Driven by continued shifts in grocery buying behaviour, a good summer and key events, the convenience sector is estimated to have enjoyed its strongest growth in three years in 2018. The year also saw consolidation, meaning the leading two players now control around half the market which will continue to add pressure to the smaller players."

Nick Carroll, Associate Director of Retail
 Research

# This report looks at the following areas:

- Leveraging the ethical angle for c-stores
- Automated convenience

The convenience store sector is estimated to have returned to stronger growth in 2018 with sales advancing 3.4%, compared to growth of 2.8% in 2017, to reach £43.0 billion (including VAT). Inflation is still playing its part in driving value sales, but the sector grew, albeit marginally, ahead of the wider grocery sector (+3.2%) in 2018, meaning its share of all grocery retail sales advanced to 24.5%.

Clearly not all in the sector are benefiting equally from this growth, highlighted by the fact that there was a significant drop in the number of c-stores within the UK in 2018. In part this was due to the disruption caused by the collapse of P&H, but also because whilst the leading players in the sector are growing strongly, this is not being equally felt by smaller operators that are not able to keep pace with the level of innovation needed to appeal to the increasing number of small-basket shoppers.

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**DID YOU KNOW?** 

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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#### **Table of Contents**

#### **Overview**

What you need to know

Products covered in this Report

#### **Executive Summary**

#### The market

#### Real incomes grow and confidence holds up despite uncertainty

Figure 1: Average weekly earnings (excluding bonus pay) growth versus CPIH, January 2016-April 2019

#### Growth in the convenience sector accelerates for the third year running

Figure 2: Convenience store market size, including VAT, 2013-23

#### C-stores account for a quarter of the sector

Figure 3: Estimated breakdown of all grocery sales, by format/channel, 2013-18

#### Companies and brands

#### Tesco leads the way

Figure 4: Leading c-stores, market shares, 2018

#### M&S has the most differentiated brand

Figure 5: Attitudes towards and usage of selected brands, April 2019

#### The consumer

#### Nine in 10 do some shopping in c-stores

## Traditional categories still a key footfall driver

Figure 6: Use of convenience stores, by broad category and detailed non-food and drink purchasing, March 2019

# Food-for-home being driven by younger consumers

Figure 7: Types of food-for-home products typically purchased in convenience stores, March 2019

# Lunch key in food-to-go

Figure 8: Types of food-to-go typically purchased from convenience stores, March 2018

#### Three quarters visit once a week

Figure 9: Frequency of convenience store use, March 2018

## Most shop at c-stores in urban areas, although travel locations receive the greatest footfall

Figure 10: Area of convenience store use, March 2018

#### Tesco Express and Co-op most popular c-stores

Figure 11: Convenience retailers regularly used and most often, March 2019

#### The sector is strong on convenience and locality, but value for money an issue...

Figure 12: Correspondence Analysis, March 2019

#### ...but other benefits offset the added cost

Figure 13: Attitudes towards shopping in convenience stores, March 2018

What we think

#### **Issues and Insights**



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Leveraging the ethical angle for c-stores

The facts

The implications

Automated convenience

The facts

The implications

#### The Market - What You Need to Know

Real incomes grow and confidence holds up despite uncertainty

Private renting climbs as urbanisation grows

Growth in the convenience sector accelerates for the third year running

C-stores account for a quarter of the sector

#### **Market Drivers**

#### Real incomes continue to grow...

Figure 14: Average weekly earnings (excluding bonus pay) growth versus CPIH, January 2016- April 2019

#### ...confidence holding up relatively well given the circumstances

Figure 15: Mintel's Financial Confidence Tracker, January 2017-March 2019

## Retail sales are holding up well

Figure 16: Retail sales: growth in all retail sales and all food retail sales, by value and volume, January 2017-February 2019

# Food inflation eases in 2018

Figure 17: Inflation in core food and drink categories, 2014-February 2019

# Private renting continues to climb

Figure 18: UK households, by tenure status, 2012-17

## UK population is ageing

Figure 19: UK population, by age, 2013-23

# Two thirds of households contain one or two people

Figure 20: UK household size as a percentage of all households, 2013-17

## **Market Size and Forecast**

# C-store sector returns to stronger growth in 2018

Figure 21: Convenience store market size, including VAT, 2013-23

# Trends still in favour for convenience stores, but competition is fierce

Figure 22: Total convenience store market size (including VAT), at current and constant (2018) prices, 2013-23

# Convenience stores account for a quarter of the grocery sector

Figure 23: Estimated breakdown of all grocery sales, by format/channel, 2013-18

#### Forecast methodology

## The Consumer - What You Need to Know

Nine in 10 do some shopping in c-stores

Traditional categories still a key footfall driver

Food-for-home being driven by younger consumers

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Three quarters visit once a week

Most shop at c-stores in urban areas, although travel locations receive the greatest footfall

Tesco Express and Co-op most popular c-stores

The sector is strong on convenience and locality, but value for money an issue...

...but other benefits offset the added cost

#### **Who Shops in Convenience Stores**

#### Nearly nine in 10 do some form of shopping via convenience stores

Figure 24: Use of convenience stores, by broad category, March 2019

#### Usage high across all age groups, but peaks among those aged 16-24

Figure 25: Any use of convenience stores, by age, March 2019

#### Price reality/perception putting some off

Figure 26: Any use of convenience stores, by household income, March 2019

#### C-store use peaks in urban areas

Figure 27: Any use of convenience stores, by region and type of locations lived in, March 2019

#### **What They Use Convenience Stores For**

#### Traditional categories still a key footfall driver

Figure 28: Use of convenience stores, by broad category and detailed non-food and drink purchasing, March 2019

### Drinks and household items a driver for younger consumers

Figure 29: Use of convenience stores, by detailed non-food and drink purchasing, by age, March 2019

#### Higher-income households more likely to buy alcohol

Figure 30: Use of convenience stores, by detailed non-food and drink purchasing, by household income, March 2019

#### Food-for-Home, Food-to-Go Purchasing

#### Younger consumers particularly crucial for food-to-go

Figure 31: Food-for-home, food-to-go purchasing at convenience stores, by age, March 2019

#### Food-for-home staples still key

Figure 32: Types of food-for-home products typically purchased in convenience stores, March 2019

# Particular spike in frozen purchasing among younger shoppers

Figure 33: Types of food-for-home products typically purchased in convenience stores, by age, March 2019

#### Snacking and lunch crucial in food-to-go

Figure 34: Types of food-to-go typically purchased from convenience stores, March 2019

#### **Frequency of Convenience Store Use**

#### Three quarters of c-store shoppers visit once a week

Figure 35: Frequency of convenience store use, March 2018

#### Younger consumers visit most frequently

Figure 36: Frequency of convenience store use, by age, March 2019

#### Traditional categories still drive the most frequent footfall

Figure 37: Frequency of convenience store use, by broad use, March 2019

Figure 38: Frequency of convenience store use, by detailed non-food use, March 2019

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#### **Locations of Convenience Store Use**

#### Urban c-stores most popular types of location

Figure 39: Area of convenience store use, March 2019

#### Stores in travel hubs see greater daily visitation

Figure 40: Area of convenience store use, by frequency of c-store shop, March 2019

#### **Retailers Used**

#### Tesco Express and the Co-op show similar style usage

Figure 41: Convenience retailers regularly used and most often, March 2019

Figure 42: Repertoire of convenience stores regularly used, March 2019

#### M&S Simply Food falls behind in usage from 16-24s

Figure 43: Leading convenience retailers regularly used, by age, March 2019

#### Food items for home are the top purchase

Figure 44: Types of products purchased in the leading convenience store retailers, March 2019

#### **Perceptions of Convenience Stores**

Figure 45: Where c-store users also shop for groceries, March 2019

#### Convenience strong, but value for money still a concern at c-stores

Figure 46: Correspondence Analysis, March 2019

Figure 47: Convenience Stores, March 2019

# Co-op and Spar shoppers most likely to associate c-stores with supporting the local area

Figure 48: Perceptions of grocery store format, by c-store shopped with, March 2019

#### Methodology

#### **Attitudes towards Shopping in Convenience Stores**

#### Over half are put off c-stores when incomes are squeezed

Figure 49: Attitudes towards pricing and convenience stores, March 2019  $\,$ 

# Savvier ways of paying would be most appealing to 16-34s

Figure 50: Attitudes towards payment options within convenience stores, by age, March 2019

#### Recycling initiative would resonate with majority of consumers...

Figure 51: Attitudes towards sustainability and convenience stores, March 2019

#### ...whilst 16-34s associate usage with cutting back on food waste

Figure 52: Attitudes towards sustainability and convenience stores, by age, March 2019

#### Leading Retailers - What You Need to Know

Tesco the market leader

Co-op consolidates its position

M&S has the most differentiated brand

Smartphone-driven c-store shopping takes off

## **Competitive Strategies**

Multiples

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Figure 53: Leading multiples, key metrics, 2018

#### Co-operatives

Figure 54: Co-operatives in the UK, stores and sales, 2018

#### Symbol groups

Figure 55: Leading convenience store retailers, total store numbers by type of operation, 2015-18

#### Petrol forecourts

Figure 56: Total number of, and breakdown in ownership of, UK forecourts, 2016-18

#### **Leading Retailers - Key Metrics**

Two types of c-store operation

Acquisitions and concentration

Complicated structure

Multiples vs symbol groups

Sales

Figure 57: Leading c-stores sales, 2014/15-2018/19

Stores

Figure 58: Leading c-stores outlet numbers, 2014/15-2018/19
Figure 59: Leading c-stores, sales per outlet, 2014/15-2018/19

#### **Market Share**

# Two players account for half the market

Figure 60: Leading c-stores, market shares (ex-VAT), 2018
Figure 61: Estimated c-store market shares (ex-VAT), 2014-18

#### **Space Allocation Summary**

#### Food is the biggest occupier of in-store shelf space

Figure 62: Convenience stores: space allocation estimates, April 2019

#### Fresh food and other food split

Figure 63: Convenience stores: fresh food and other food mix, by percentage share of total in-store space allocated to food, April 2019

#### Detailed space allocation estimates

Figure 64: Convenience stores: detailed space allocation estimates, April 2019

Figure 65: Convenience stores: detailed space allocation estimates, April 2019

#### **Retail Product Mix**

Figure 66: Leading Convenience stores, estimated proportion of sales by broad product category, 2018

Figure 67: Leading convenience stores, estimated sales by broad product category, 2018

#### **Brand Research**

# What you need to know

#### Brand map

Figure 68: Attitudes towards and usage of selected brands, April 2019

#### Key brand metrics

Figure 69: Key metrics for selected brands, April 2019

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Brand attitudes: Co-op maintains image as a trusted brand

Figure 70: Attitudes, by brand, April 2019

Brand personality: Sainsbury's Local improves its accessibility

Figure 71: Brand personality – macro image, April 2019

Spar is basic, whilst M&S is aspirational and stylish

Figure 72: Brand personality - micro image, April 2019

Brand analysis

M&S Simply Food is a distinctive brand with high satisfaction

Figure 73: User profile of M&S Simply Food, April 2019

Tesco Express has a broad demographic base

Figure 74: User profile of Tesco Express, April 2019

Sainsbury's Local usage lags behind rivals

Figure 75: User profile of Sainsbury's Local, April 2019

The Co-operative's defining trait is its ethical credentials

Figure 76: User profile of The Co-operative, April 2019

Spar is lacking in differentiation

Figure 77: User profile of Spar, April 2019

#### **Launch Activity and Innovation**

Cashierless shopping: the innovation of the moment

Expansion of Amazon Go

Is the future of convenience retail automated?

Innovating for greater convenience

7-Eleven unveils 'lab' store

Pizza convenience

Robo Shopkeep

Click-and-collect butchers

## **Advertising and Marketing Activity**

#### Supermarket and c-store advertising spend falls by 8% in 2018

Figure 78: Recorded above-the-line, online display and direct mail total advertising expenditure by UK supermarket and convenience store operators, 2014-18

#### Convenience store campaigns

Figure~79: Leading~UK~supermarket~and~convenience~store~operators:~recorded~above-the-line,~online~display~and~direct~mail~total~advertising~expenditure,~2014-18

#### TV attracts just under half of all advertising expenditure

Figure~80:~Recorded~above-the-line,~online~display~and~direct~mail~total~advertising~expenditure~by~UK~supermarket~and~convenience~store~operators,~by~media~type,~2018

Nielsen Ad Intel coverage

## Appendix - Data Sources, Abbreviations and Supporting Information

Data sources

Financial definitions

Trade definitions

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Sales per store, sales per square metre

Exchange rates

Abbreviations

Consumer research methodology

**Appendix - Market Size and Forecast** 

Forecast methodology

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