

# Asia (ex-China) Retail

BIWEEKLY UPDATES

16 November 2015 – 30 November 2015

## *the latest in asia*

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## Asia at a Glance

### **Retail in general: Asians are more responsive to email marketing**

Email is still the leading channel for purchase conversion in Asia, according to eTail Asia and Experian's report *Digital Consumer View 2015 – Asia*. The report found that Asian shoppers are more responsive to email marketing than other digital channels such as social media, brand apps, SMS and chat apps. Hong Kong was the most engaged, with 70% of respondents there having shopped from email communications, followed by 67% in Indonesia, 64% in China and 62% in Thailand. Social media contributed the second largest number of purchase conversion. In Southeast Asian emerging markets, more than half of the respondents made a purchase after seeing a product featured on their social media, with uptake rates between 62% and 65% in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

📍Warc, 25 November, 2015

📍[http://www.warc.com/LatestNews/News/EmailNews.news?ID=35784&Origin=WARCNewsEmail&CID=N35784&PUB=WarcNews&utm\\_source=WarcNews&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=WarcNews20151125](http://www.warc.com/LatestNews/News/EmailNews.news?ID=35784&Origin=WARCNewsEmail&CID=N35784&PUB=WarcNews&utm_source=WarcNews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=WarcNews20151125)

### **Retail in general: Southeast Asia posts highest social media usage rate**

Southeast Asia has among the highest social media usage rate in the world, according to a report by market research firm eMarketer. The report found that Indonesia has the highest social media penetration rate among Internet users in the region, with 77.4% of Internet users accessing a social network at least once a month in 2015, followed by the Philippines (74%), Malaysia (73.5%), Singapore (73.3%), Thailand (73%) and Vietnam (72.7%). The high social media penetration was driven by the growth of Facebook. Indonesia also leads on the Facebook usage rate in 2015, with 72.5% of Internet users logging in their Facebook accounts at least once a month, followed by the Philippines (69.2%), Malaysia (68%), Singapore (67.4%), Thailand (66.8%) and Vietnam (66.2%). It is also noteworthy that almost 200 million out of over 232 million active social media users in Southeast Asian region use mobile devices to access their social media accounts.

📍eMarketer, 25 November, 2015

📍<http://www.emarketer.com/Article/Southeast-Asia-Has-Among-Highest-Social-Network-Usage-World/1013275>

### **Retail in general: Asian shoppers prefer buying Christmas gifts online**

Almost half of Asian shoppers said they prefer doing their Christmas shopping online this year, according to a survey by Japan's largest e-commerce retailer Rakuten. Among the 2,500 shoppers surveyed in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Taiwan, 47% responded they preferred buying their Christmas gifts online, due mainly to convenience (83%), the ease of browsing and comparing of products (55%) and cost effectiveness from attractive rebate and loyalty programs (41%). In general, when shopping for a gift, Asian shoppers consider price (33%) as the single biggest factor affecting their buying decision, followed by the

likeability of a gift by the recipient (26%) and practicality of the gift (25%). The survey also found that Asians spend an average US\$30 on a Christmas gift.

➤Retail News Asia, 27 November, 2015

➤<http://www.retailnews.asia/poll-finds-asian-prefer-christmas-shopping-online/>

## **Department stores: Isetan Thailand spends 1 billion baht on makeover**

Isetan Thailand, the Thai branch of Japan's department store operator Isetan, has allocated 1 billion baht (US\$28 million) for the renovation of its department store in Central World shopping complex in Bangkok in view of heated retail competition and the return of Japanese retail chains. Tokyu Department Store has recently opened a second branch in Paradise Park on Srinakarin Road, while luxury department store Takashimaya will open store in the IconSiam shopping project on the bank of the Chao Phraya River in the next few years. For the makeover of Isetan Thailand, 200 billion baht will be used to rejuvenate its food department on the fifth floor, while 800 million will be used to revamp the four other floors.

➤Bangkok Post, 25 November, 2015

➤<http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/775597/isetan-in-b1bn-remodelling>

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## **Japan**

### **Statistics: Retail sales grow 1.8% yoy in October 2015**

Japan's retail sales rose 1.8% yoy in October 2015. By category, retail sales of fabric apparel & accessories gained 8.1% yoy, followed by medicine & toiletry stores (up 4.9% yoy), food & beverage (up 4% yoy), general merchandise (up 3.2% yoy), motor vehicles (up 3% yoy) and machinery & equipment (up 0.3% yoy) in October 2015. By contrast, retail sales of fuel services dropped 13.1% yoy in October 2015.

➤Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, 30 November, 2015

➤<http://www.meti.go.jp/english/statistics/tyo/syoudou/index.html>

### **Statistics: CPI up 0.3% yoy in October 2015**

Japan's consumer price index grew 0.3% yoy in October 2015. By category, prices of food increased by 3.4% yoy, followed by culture and recreation (up 2% yoy), furniture & household utensils (1.9% yoy), clothes & footwear (up 1.7% yoy), education (up 1.5% yoy), miscellaneous (up 0.7% yoy) and medical care (up 0.6% yoy) in October 2015. By contrast, prices of fuel, light & water charges and transportation & communication fell 7% yoy and 3.3% yoy respectively, while prices of housing remained unchanged in October 2015.

➤Japan Cabinet Office, 27 November, 2015

➤<http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/cpi/1581.htm>

### **Retail in general: Japan's overseas visitor arrivals see new high in October 2015**

According to the Japan National Tourism Organization, Japan recorded a total of 1.82 million visitor arrivals in October 2015, a record-high and up 43.8% yoy. China topped the list with 445,600 arrivals, almost double the figure from the same month last year. Arrivals from South Korea came in second, with 370,800, up 43.8% yoy, followed by 343,600 from Taiwan, up 32% yoy. The record arrivals were attributable to the continued depreciation of the yen, a soar in the number of Chinese tourists, the duty-free system for inbound tourists, an expansion of airline routes, a drop in fuel surcharges and the relaxation of visas.

☞The Japanese Times, 18 November, 2015

☞[http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/11/18/national/japan-sees-record-number-overseas-tourists-october/?utm\\_source=Daily+News+Updates&utm\\_campaign=c9a08a19a2-Thursday\\_email\\_updates19\\_11\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_c5a6080d40-c9a08a19a2-332827361#.VlK-tmf9mUk](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/11/18/national/japan-sees-record-number-overseas-tourists-october/?utm_source=Daily+News+Updates&utm_campaign=c9a08a19a2-Thursday_email_updates19_11_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c5a6080d40-c9a08a19a2-332827361#.VlK-tmf9mUk)

### **Department stores: Takashimaya Department Store opens online store in China**

Takashimaya Department Store will conduct e-commerce business overseas. It will open websites overseas to sell food, household goods and other products available in local Takashimaya stores. Takashimaya Shanghai has opened an online store, offering household goods and food such as rice and seasonings imported from Japan and pineapples and hairy crabs imported from Taiwan. It will accept orders online and deliver products via the department stores.

☞ChinaSSPP.com, 17 November 2015

☞<http://www.chinasspp.com/News/Detail/2015-11-17/208141.htm> (in Chinese only)

### **Convenience stores: Lawson to enter the banking sector**

Japan's second largest convenience store operator Lawson mulls making inroads into banking sector. With over 12,000 convenience stores operating in Japan, the retailer has the physical store network ready to accept deposits from customers. It also possesses the IT infrastructure in place which could be easily modified to enable customers to pay bills, make bank transfers and other basic banking services. Japanese bank Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group has indicated that it would take a minority stake in the new bank. Lawson would become the third company in Japan's retail industry to break into the banking business, behind its competitor Seven & i Holdings, which entered the banking sector in 2001, and supermarket operator Aeon, which obtained a banking license in 2007.

☞Nikkei Asian Review, 20 November, 2015

☞<http://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Companies/Lawson-eyes-foray-into-banking>

### **E-commerce: Sample Department Store enters Tmall Global**

All About Life Marketing, a marketing unit under Japan's online advertising and shopping service company All About, has recently announced that its department store unit Sample Department Store will enter Tmall Global. The move aims to satisfy Chinese customers' increasing demand for Japanese products. The Japanese company will also provide agency services, enabling local sizable manufacturers and SME to distribute their products in China via its online department store on Tmall Global.

☞Cifnews.com, 19 November, 2015

☞<http://www.cifnews.com/article/17895>(only in Chinese)

## **E-commerce: Amazon Japan offers one-hour delivery in central Tokyo**

Amazon Japan, a Japanese affiliate of U.S. e-commerce giant Amazon, has rolled out a service to deliver goods within an hour in central Tokyo, initially covering eight wards, including Setagaya and will gradually expand into other wards. The new service is for Amazon Prime members, who enjoy various benefits for an annual membership fee of 3,900 yen (US\$32). Members who spend 2,500 yen or above on goods at one time can also enjoy the service.

☞The Japan Times, 20 November, 2015

☞<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/11/20/business/amazon-unit-offers-one-hour-delivery-within-eight-tokyo-wards/>

## **Apparel: Uniqlo enters new partnership with textile maker Toray**

Japan's fast fashion giant Uniqlo has agreed to forge another five-year strategic partnership with Tokyo-based fabric textile maker Toray, with the aim of achieving business transactions worth 1 trillion yen (US\$8.11 billion) between the two companies. Over the next five years, the two companies will pursue globalization to increase manufacturing and digitization to optimize production processes. The partnership between the two companies began in 1999 and since then, they have jointly developed new products including Uniqlo's signature brands, such as Heattech and Airism.

☞The Japanese Times, 17 November, 2015

☞<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/11/17/business/corporate-business/uniqlo-toray-agree-third-five-year-deal-set-%C2%A51-trillion-goal/#.VLK5M2f9mAh>

## **Accessories: BCN Brand made Asian debut in Japan**

Spanish footwear company BCN Brand has started selling its footwear in Takashimaya Department store in November 2015. The company has also signed new deals with Hankyu Department store, local footwear companies FootMind, FootPride and Akaikutsu, allowing it to expand its footprint to Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama and Hakata. BCN Brand also plans to create an e-commerce platform in Japan to round off its operations in the country. Currently, the company operates 40 retail stores in Spain, with a turnover of 700,000 euros in 2014.

☞Fashionmag.com, 19 November, 2015

☞[http://th.fashionmag.com/news/Spain-s-BCN-Brand-to-conquer-japan.597830.html#utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email](http://th.fashionmag.com/news/Spain-s-BCN-Brand-to-conquer-japan.597830.html#utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email)

## **Luxury: Michael Kors opens largest Japanese flagship store in Ginza**

New York-based Michael Kors has recently opened its largest Japanese flagship store on Chuo Street in Tokyo's renowned Ginza district. The store, with a floor area of 7,800 sqft, is the first in the world to carry every category offered by the brand and the first freestanding Michael Kors store in Asia to offer menswear. It houses a variety of products including handbags and small leather goods, womenswear, menswear, accessories and footwear from Michael Kors Collection and its diffusion line MICHAEL Michael Kors labels.



☞Ccp-luxury.com, 20 November, 2015

☞<http://www.ccp-luxury.com/michael-kors-opens-new-store-in-tokyos-ginza/>

## **Luxury: Versace re-enters Japan luxury market**

Italian luxury brand Versace has made a return to Japan's luxury market after shutting down all its four retail stores in the country six years ago. The brand has opened three new stores in Tokyo, including Versus Versace in April 2015, Versace Home in June 2015 and the flagship store Versace in November 2015. The brand will continue its expansion in Japan over the next couple of years. It also aims to grow its market value to 1 billion euro, with 20%-30% of its total revenue contributed from Japan. Currently, Versace has 38% of its revenue coming from the Greater China region.

☞Fashionmag.com, 26 November, 2015

☞[http://cn.fashionmag.com/news/versace-zheng-shi-zhong-fan-ri-ben-shi-chang---da-zhong-hua-di-qu.600469.html#utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email](http://cn.fashionmag.com/news/versace-zheng-shi-zhong-fan-ri-ben-shi-chang---da-zhong-hua-di-qu.600469.html#utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email) (in Chinese only)

## **Home products: Muji opens new experiential flagship store in New York, offering gardening items**

Muji, a Japanese home product retailer, opened a new experiential flagship store in New York on 19 November, 2015. The new store, with a floor area of 12,000 sqft, comprises an aroma lab, enabling customers to create their own custom perfume. Moreover, the store is also equipped with embroidery and sewing machines which allow customers to make their own unique textile products such as apparel, accessories and home textile items. In partnership with Tokyo-based gardening company Green Fingers, the New York flagship store is the first Muji store in the world to offer gardening items including plants and gardening deco. Muji currently operates about 700 retail stores worldwide, including 11 branches in the U.S.

☞Fashionmag.com, 23 November, 2015

☞[http://tw.fashionmag.com/news/wu-yin-liang-pin-bei-mei-qi-jian-dian-niu-yue-kai-zhang---ding-zhi-xiang-shui---ding-zhi-xiu-hua.598983.html#utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email](http://tw.fashionmag.com/news/wu-yin-liang-pin-bei-mei-qi-jian-dian-niu-yue-kai-zhang---ding-zhi-xiang-shui---ding-zhi-xiu-hua.598983.html#utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email)(in Chinese only)

☞Green Fingers, accessed on 25 November, 2015

☞<http://greenfingersnyc.com/about/>

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## **South Korea**

### **Statistics: Consumer sentiment index up 1 point mom to 106 in November 2015**

South Korea's consumer sentiment index added 1 point mom to 106 in November 2015, due to the growth in sentiment on prospective household spending (up 2 points mom) and prospective household income (up 1 point mom). By contrast, sentiment on current domestic economic conditions and prospective domestic economic conditions slid 2 points mom respectively, while current living standards and prospective living standards stayed unchanged in November 2015.

☞The Bank of Korea, 26 November, 2015

☞<http://www.bok.or.kr/broadcast.action?menuNavId=1959>

## **Retail in general: South Korea sees rebound in Chinese tourist arrivals**

The number of Chinese tourists arrivals to South Korea soared 15.6% yoy to 650,174 in October 2015, the first time reaching double digit growth since the start of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak in May 2015. Duty-free shopping in South Korea has also been a major draw for Chinese shopping. South Korea's duty-free retail market has registered a rally amid the growth of its Chinese travelers, with sales rising 5.7% yoy in October 2015, according to the Korea Duty-Free Association.

🔄Jing Daily, 27 November, 2015

🔄[http://jingdaily.com/south-korea-bounces-back-for-chinese-luxury-shoppers/?utm\\_source=Jing+Daily+List&utm\\_campaign=6fbabdd8fc-jing+Daily+s+China+Brief+August+18+2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8dec01cd8d-6fbabdd8fc-407941601&goal=0\\_8dec01cd8d-6fbabdd8fc-407941601#.Vluj62f9nVi](http://jingdaily.com/south-korea-bounces-back-for-chinese-luxury-shoppers/?utm_source=Jing+Daily+List&utm_campaign=6fbabdd8fc-jing+Daily+s+China+Brief+August+18+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8dec01cd8d-6fbabdd8fc-407941601&goal=0_8dec01cd8d-6fbabdd8fc-407941601#.Vluj62f9nVi)

## **Hypermarket: South Korean CJ Freshway to set up two JVs in China in tie-up with Yonghui Superstores**

CJ Freshway Corporation, a South Korean food giant, has reached a strategic cooperation agreement with China's hypermarket operator Yonghui Superstores to establish two joint ventures (JVs) in China. Under the agreement, each company will contribute RMB 100 million to the two JVs, with one located in Shanghai and another in Beijing. The move aims to develop a global procurement and direct supply platform for fresh produce. The Shanghai JV will be engaged in overseas procurement of meat, aquatic products, fruit, etc. The Beijing JV will serve as a centralized kitchen to do food processing and provide semi-finished food products for restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, convenience stores and e-commerce players.

🔄NetEase, 23 November 2015

🔄<http://money.163.com/15/1121/00/B8THJG8500252603.html> (in Chinese only)

## **Duty-free shops: Lotte fails to renew duty-free license**

South Korean retail titan Lotte fails to renew the duty-free license as the customs agency granted the license to its rival bidder – South Korean heavy industries giant Doosan Co. Lotte, which had possessed the license for five years, had already invested 300 billion won in its duty free business. The customs agency's decision has dashed the company's hopes to grow it into the world's largest duty-free outlet over the next decade.

🔄The business Times, 18 November, 2015

🔄<http://www.businesstimes.com.sg/consumer/duty-free-loss-piles-woes-on-troubled-lotte-group>

## **Beauty and personal care: Innisfree to open largest flagship store in Shanghai**

Innisfree, South Korea's natural cosmetics brand owned by the local cosmetics giant Amore Pacific, is set to open its largest flagship store in Shanghai, China. The new store, with a floor area of 827 sqm, is the largest store among all of the brand's retail outlets and is reportedly the largest cosmetics store in China. Amore Pacific currently has 200 offline stores across China, including in Shanghai, Beijing and Shenyang. It has also started operating an online store since April 2012.

🔄Inside Retail Asia, 26 November, 2015

➡<https://insideretail.asia/2015/11/26/massive-innisfree-china-store-planned/>

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## Taiwan

### **Statistics: Retail sales up 0.6% yoy in October 2015**

Taiwan's retail sales added 0.6% yoy in October 2015. By category, retail sales of department stores, supermarkets, convenience stores & hypermarket increased by 5% yoy, followed by food, beverage & tobacco (up 4.8% yoy) and non-store retailing (up 4.7% yoy). By contrast, retail sales of petrol services plunged 22.5% yoy, followed by home appliances (down 1.3% yoy) and auto motors (down 0.3% yoy).

➡Department of Statistics, Ministry of Economic Affairs of Taiwan, 23 November, 2015

➡[https://www.moea.gov.tw/MNS/dos/bulletin/Bulletin.aspx?kind=8&html=1&menu\\_id=6727&bullet\\_id=2291](https://www.moea.gov.tw/MNS/dos/bulletin/Bulletin.aspx?kind=8&html=1&menu_id=6727&bullet_id=2291)

### **Statistics: Consumer sentiment index down 0.4 point mom to 84.2 in November 2015**

Taiwan's consumer sentiment index slid 0.4 point mom to 84.2 in November 2015, due mainly to a fall in sentiment on five out of six sub-indices, including stock investment (down 1.1 points mom), property investment (down 0.5 point mom), job market (down 0.45 point mom), domestic price level (down 0.4 point mom) and household finance (down 0.3 point mom). By contrast, sentiment on domestic economic outlook grew 0.35 point mom in November 2015.

➡The Research Center for Taiwan Economic Development, National Central University, 27

➡November, 2015

➡<http://rcted.ncu.edu.tw/upload.phtml>

### **Convenience stores: 7-Eleven Taiwan to team up with MyDay on overseas shopping service**

7-Eleven Taiwan, the largest convenience store operator in the territory, announced that it will pair up with local shopping website MyDay to have online purchases from overseas delivered to 7-Eleven Taiwan's 5,000-plus branches in Taiwan. The delivery service is available from 25 November 2015, which enables MyDay's consumers to have their online purchases delivered from Japan, the U.S. and South Korea in five days at the earliest. With over 10 years of experience in cross-border shopping services, MyDay also ties up with other international shopping websites such as Amazon in the U.S., Rakuten in Japan and Gmarket in South Korea.

➡The China Post, 25 November, 2015

➡<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/business/company-focus/2015/11/25/451829/7-Eleven-and.htm>

### **E-commerce: Alibaba launches venture funds for Taiwan, Hong Kong entrepreneurs**

China's e-commerce giant Alibaba has announced two venture funds to help entrepreneurs in Taiwan and Hong Kong to leverage Alibaba's ecosystem to offer products and services to China and the rest of the world. The two funds will also



offer 200 internship opportunities annually for graduates and final year students of local tertiary educational institutions. Successful applicants will be able to work for 6- 12 months at Alibaba Group companies in China.

↳ Inside Retail Asia, 23 November, 2015

↳ <https://insideretail.asia/2015/11/23/alibaba-launches-1-billion-hong-kong-venture-fund/>

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## Thailand

### **Shopping malls: The Mall Group to spend 1 billion baht on IT facelift**

The Mall Group, Thailand's major shopping mall operator, is set to commit 1 billion baht for a big makeover of its IT system for the first time since its debut 30 years ago. The move is part of the group's plan to stay stronger amid stiffer competition. The new IT system will enable the group to track individual customers' shopping behaviour and direct its marketing initiatives accordingly.

↳ Bangkok Post, 18 November, 2015

↳ <http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/768516/mall-group-spends-b1bn-on-it-revamp>

### **Hypermarket: Severe drought frustrate Thailand retailers**

Big C Supercenter, the second largest hypermarket chain operator in Thailand, has slowed down its pace of expansion plan as severe drought in Thailand has hard hit the rural areas wherein the retailer generates about 50% of its sales. Big C Supercenter suffered a 5.2% yoy drop in same-store sales in 3Q15, the most among its peers. However, despite the ravages by the drought, CP All, the owner of Thailand's 7-Eleven stores, is forging ahead with its expansion to help offset slower sales at current stores. The retailer plans to add at least 600 new stores each year to raise the total number of stores to 10,000 by 2018.

↳ Bangkok Post, 25 November 2015

↳ <http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/776493/drought-holding-back-retail-store-expansion>

### **E-commerce: Thailand's e-commerce market to hit 2.1 trillion baht in 2015**

According to a survey conducted by Thailand's National Statistical Office and commissioned by the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA), the value of Thailand's e-commerce market is estimated to reach 2.1 trillion baht (US\$58.54 billion) in 2015 thanks to greater price competition and faster wireless network speed. The result of the survey was based on the responses from 502,676 e-commerce providers in Thailand via online and face-to-face interviews held between April and October 2015.

↳ Bangkok Post, 19 November, 2015

↳ <http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/769596/e-commerce-still-on-the-up>

## **E-commerce: Thai online retailer iTrueMart starts Southeast Asian expansion in the Philippines**

iTrueMart, one of Thailand's leading online retailers, has set up an online store in the Philippines, marking its first step of a broad Asian expansion. Its parent company Ascend Group is reportedly planning to commit US\$150 million for Southeast Asian expansion to leverage the advent of the Asean Economic Community (AEC). iTrueMart aims to become the second largest e-commerce retailer in Thailand by the end of 2016 and the largest by 2017 through tie-ups with authorized brand distributors. The website currently offers brand products ranging from household appliances and electronics to beauty products, personal care items and health supplies.

↻ Pressreader.com, 24 November, 2015

↻ <http://www.pressreader.com/philippines/philippine-daily-inquirer/20151124/282106340548676/TextView>

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## **Malaysia**

### **Department stores: Parkson plans Southeast Asian expansion, tapping new categories to trim losses**

Parkson, Malaysia-based department store operator, plans to open up four outlets in Malaysia, three to five outlets in Indonesia, two in Myanmar and one in Cambodia in 2016. To stem losses arising from a 15% sales plunge since the introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in Malaysia from April 2015, the group has also earmarked 100 million ringgit (US\$22.8 million) for its rebranding campaign over the last one and a half year to revitalize its retail business across the Southeast Asian region. It is ready to expand into new categories including gourmet food, supermarkets and beauty products and import new fast fashion brands. The retailer also seeks to widen its brand portfolio from the current 35 brands to some 100 brands in its apparel offering. For the fiscal year ended 30 June, 2015, Parkson recorded a 69% yoy net profit drop as a result of lackluster sales performance in its Malaysia, China, Vietnam and Myanmar operations.

↻ The Malaysian Insider, 17 November, 2015

↻ <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/business/article/parkson-eyes-more-than-100-brands-to-revive-business>

↻ Inside Retail Asia, 17 November, 2015

↻ <https://insideretail.asia/2015/11/17/parkson-malaysia-expands-into-food-to-stem-losses/>

### **Hypermarkets: Lulu Group opens first Malaysian hypermarket**

Dubai-based Lulu Group will open its first Lulu Group Malaysia hypermarket in Kuala Lumpur in February 2016. The retailer will initially allocate 1.3 billion ringgit (US\$300 million) for opening 10 new hypermarkets over the next two years. Lulu Group currently operates 118 hypermarkets and shopping malls in the Middle East and India.

↻ Trade Arabia, 23 November, 2015

↻ [http://trade-arabia.com/news/RET\\_295335.html](http://trade-arabia.com/news/RET_295335.html)

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## Singapore

### **Retail in general: Singaporeans fond of overseas shopping**

A survey conducted by U.S. insurance company AIG found that 36% of the 1,205 interviewed Singaporeans go on holiday solely to shop. When taking a holiday for retail therapy, Singaporeans spend an average of S\$336 a day. The three most sought-after overseas shopping hotspots are Bangkok, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Other reasons for non-business travel by Singaporeans behind retail therapy include a weekend getaway (21%), to see somewhere exotic (12%) or to indulge in a luxury break (4%).

↻ Inside Retail Asia, 20 November, 2015

↻ <https://insideretail.asia/2015/11/20/singaporeans-love-to-shop-overseas/>

### **Statistics: CPI down 0.8% yoy in October 2015**

Singapore's consumer price index slid 0.8% yoy in October 2015, attributable to a drop in prices of housing & utilities (4.3% yoy), followed by transport (down 1.7% yoy), household durables & services (down 1.6% yoy), communication (down 0.6% yoy) and miscellaneous goods & services (down 0.5% yoy). By contrast, prices of education, food, clothing & footwear, healthcare and recreation & culture rose between 3.7% yoy and 0.4% yoy.

↻ Department of Statistics Singapore, 23 November, 2015

↻ [http://www.singstat.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/news/press\\_releases/cpioct2015.pdf](http://www.singstat.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/news/press_releases/cpioct2015.pdf)

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## Fung Business Intelligence Centre

**The Fung Group** is a privately held multinational group of companies headquartered in Hong Kong whose core businesses are trading, logistics, distribution and retailing. The Fung Group employs over 45,000 people across 40 economies worldwide, generating total revenue of more than US\$22.6 billion in 2013. Fung Holdings (1937) Limited, a privately held business entity headquartered in Hong Kong, is the major shareholder of the Fung group of companies.

**The Fung Business Intelligence Centre** collects and analyses market data on sourcing, supply chains, distribution and retail. It also provides thought leadership on technology and other key issues shaping their future.

Headquartered in Hong Kong, FBIC leverages unique relationships and information networks to track and report on trends and developments in China and other Asian countries. In addition, its New York-based Global Retail & Technology research team follows broader retail and technology trends, specialising in how they intersect and building collaborative knowledge communities around the revolution occurring worldwide at the retail interface.

Since its establishment in 2000, the FBIC (formerly known as the Li & Fung Research Centre) has served as the knowledge bank and think tank for the Fung Group. Through regular research reports and other publications, it makes its market data, impartial analysis and expertise available to businesses, scholars and governments around the world. It also provides advice and consultancy services to colleagues and business partners of the Fung Group on issues related to doing business in China, ranging from market entry and company structure, to tax, licensing and other regulatory matters.

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