



Asia (ex-China) Retail & E-commerce

Weekly Updates

28 May – 3 June 2020

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the latest in Asia

Japan

[Apparel and footwear: Japan's Descente to shutter 47 stores in South Korea](#)

Japan's sportswear brand Descente will shut down 47 standalone outlets for childrenswear in South Korea as the company's sales remained sluggish amid lingering disapproval of Japanese brands since last year's Japan–South Korea trade dispute, followed by the COVID-19 setback

South Korea

[Retail in general: Retail sales grow 3.9% yoy in April](#)

South Korea's retail sales increased by 3.9% yoy in April, driven by increasing demand for online shopping services amid the COVID-19 pandemic, despite a major hit to offline retailers; by category, sales from department stores, large supermarkets and convenience stores dropped 14.8% yoy, 2.6% yoy and 1.9% yoy respectively, while online grocery retailers delivered sales growth of 16.9% yoy

[Duty-free shops: Major duty-free retailers temporarily close downtown stores](#)

South Korea's major duty-free retailers Lotte Duty Free, Hotel Shilla and Shinsegae Duty Free have temporarily closed their downtown stores on Jeju Island and in Gangnam and Busan, in response to a significant decline in tourist numbers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while their airport duty free stores are largely closed for business at present

Taiwan

[Retail in general: Taiwan's Eslite to open first Southeast Asian store in Malaysia](#)

Taiwan's Eslite will launch its first store in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; covering 3,300–6,600sqm, the debut store is scheduled to open in KL City Centre next year, while the opening date is still subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Singapore

[Retail in general: Singapore announces fourth multi-billion-dollar stimulus](#)

Singapore's government has recently announced its fourth economic stimulus package, worth S\$33 billion (US\$23.22 billion), to support the country's economy amid the COVID-19 pandemic. With a focus on preserving jobs, key measures covered in the latest package include wage support for businesses that cannot resume operations immediately upon the lifting of the nationwide lockdown starting June; rental waivers and relief for small- and medium-sized enterprises; and creation of more than 40,000 new jobs in public and private sectors

[Shopping malls: CapitaLand enhances cleaning procedure with innovative tech](#)

Singapore's largest mall operator CapitaLand have leveraged innovative tech solutions such as disinfection robots and an air disinfection system at its malls to enhance its cleaning and sanitizing procedure ahead of Singapore's phase one reopening in June; autonomous UV disinfection robots are deployed daily after mall operating hours to sanitize the basement and Level One of Tampines Mall and Bukit Panjang Plaza, which are floors with high shopper traffic

Thailand

[Convenience stores: Central Retail to take over FamilyMart Thailand](#)

Central Retail Corporation Plc (CRC) has bought out the remaining stake in FamilyMart Thailand from Japan FamilyMart, looking to strengthen its presence in the food and convenience store markets in Thailand; prior to the takeover, FamilyMart Thailand was a joint venture entity held 49% by Japan FamilyMart Co and 50.56% by CRC and its subsidiaries

[E-commerce: JD Central kick-starts "618 Super Joy Shopping Fest"](#)

JD Central, the e-commerce joint venture between China's JD.com and Thailand's Central Group, kick-started its biggest mid-year shopping festival "JD Central 618 Super Joy Shopping Fest" on 29 May; running until 20 June, the campaign started with a warm-up sale offering products from 6,500 brands at discounted prices, which will be followed by a Super Flash Sale featuring exclusive products for a special price of 618 bahts (US\$20)

India

[E-commerce: Google Pay's Nearby Stores feature now available in 35 Indian cities](#)

Google Pay's new feature Nearby Stores, which allows customers to locate grocery stores in the neighbourhood, is now available in 35 Indian cities, compared to merely a few major cities when the platform first launched the feature in April; merchants that are listed on Nearby Stores can indicate their business hours, what measures are being

taken to maintain social distancing inside the store and which essential goods are in stock

[E-commerce: Flipkart blocked from selling food online](#)

The Indian government has rejected Walmart-owned Flipkart's proposal to enter the nation's food retail market as the e-tailer's proposed plan does not comply with regulatory guidelines; previously, Flipkart announced its plan to enter the nation's growing food retail market, invest deeply in the local agriculture-ecosystem and supply chain, and work with tens of thousands of small farmers, their associations and the nation's food processing industry

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