



Asia (ex-China) Retail & E-commerce

Weekly Updates

25 December – 31 December 2019

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the latest in Asia

South Korea

[Duty-free shops: Increasing number of Chinese visitors bodes well for duty-free operators](#)

The number of Chinese visitors to South Korea is expected to surge over 25% in 2019, according to the data jointly compiled by the state-run Korea Tourism Organization and Shinhan Financial Investment; an increasing number of Chinese visitors bodes well for local duty-free operators, including Lotte Shopping and Hotel Shilla, both of which logged robust sales growth in 3Q19, with more room for further growth

[E-commerce: Lotte to shut down online marketplace in Vietnam](#)

Lotte will shut down its Vietnam online marketplace Lotte.vn on 20 February 2020; following the closure, the marketplace will be merged with SpeedL.vn, a local e-commerce website that markets products sold at Lotte's physical supermarket stores in Vietnam

Malaysia

[E-commerce: Malaysia to impose 6% tax on overseas-based digital services from Jan 1](#)

Starting 1 Jan 2020, consumers in Malaysia will be subject to a 6% digital tax if they buy or subscribe to overseas-based digital services

Thailand

[Retail in general: Central Retail plans to raise up to US\\$2.7billion in IPO](#)

Central Retail, the retail unit of Thailand's conglomerate Central Group, plans to raise up to 81.1 billion baht (US\$2.7 billion) in an initial public offer (IPO), which is expected to overtake Thailand's largest listing, BTS Rail Mass Transit Growth Fund, which raised 62 billion baht in 2013

India

[Retail in general: India's retail industry expects growth in 2H20](#)

India's retail industry is expected to bounce back in 2H20 on the back of consumer demand revival and increased spending, with major retailers expecting a double-digit growth in 2020; nevertheless, sectoral experts said the growth is still subject to various factors, including recovery of manufacturing and other sectors, consumers' spending power, etc.

[E-commerce: India's government expects to release new e-commerce policy this fiscal year](#)

India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) expects to release a new national e-commerce policy this fiscal year end; the government in February released a draft national e-commerce policy, proposing setting up a legal and technological framework for restrictions on cross-border data flow and also laid out conditions for businesses regarding collection or processing of sensitive data locally and storing it abroad

[E-commerce: Alibaba to invest US\\$10 million in India's e-commerce logistics startup](#)

Alibaba will inject US\$10 million in India's e-commerce logistics startup XpressBees; the investment is an extension of the Series D funding round raised by XpressBees in 2017, when Alibaba had invested US\$35 million in that round via Alibaba.com Singapore E-Commerce Private Ltd.

[E-commerce: Sales of India's e-tailers to hit US\\$4.8 billion during overall festive season](#)

Sales of India's e-tailers like Amazon and Flipkart are expected to hit nearly US\$4.8 billion during the overall festive season this year, according to a recent report by Forrester Research; currently, Flipkart claims it has over 60% market share in India's e-commerce market while Amazon is believed to have about 30% market share

[Consumer electronics: India's cellphone retailer Big C plans local expansion](#)

India's major cellphone retail chain Big C plans to add 75-100 new stores nationwide, including 50 stores in southwest Indian state Karnataka; the retailer will also open larger format stores in 2020-21, with each store covering about 2,000 sqft space as against the average store size of 800-1,000 sqft

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