

# Connecting with the Connected Customer

2019 Retail Outlook

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# State of Retail





### **Economic Outlook**

- 2018 GDP was 2.9%
- Although interest rates on the rise they are still at lowest points in history
- Very low unemployment rate
- However, the future is filled with uncertainty:
  - Tariffs
  - Low inflation in spite of rising wages
  - Brexit
  - Productivity growth is just over 1%, which is very weak
- Life expectancy has declined for three years straight
- Health care industry is ripe for disruption and this will influence future of retail



# Retail Industry Today

- Retail is a \$2.6 trillion industry in the United States
- In 2021, over 2.14 billion people worldwide are expected to buy goods and services online, up from 1.66 billion global digital buyers in 2016
- Online and digital is the new norm
- Offline brick and mortar stores must create surprise and delight through experiences to succeed in this channel
- Leveraging AI, machine learning, and data science will be a competitive advantage
- Tremendous number of bankruptcy going on particularly at the brick and mortar level

Hatch, Cydney, "The Growth of Ecommerce is out of this World!", *Ecommerce Marketing*, May 8, 2018 "Number of digital buyers worldwide from 2014 to 2021 (in billions)", *Statista*, *eMarketer*, 2019





# The China Impact

- Retail sales in China are expected to enjoy continued growth:
  - Innovation spurring ecommerce growth
  - Consumers in China are rapid early adopters of technology
  - China doesn't have a Western retail legacy, such as malls, supermarkets, and big-box stores
  - The mobile-pay trend totals \$9 trillion





**AMAZON** 

- Amazon continues its world-wide dominance in the retail space and holds 40% of US online retail sales
- Amazon Go may be the future of retail
- Amazon lockers provide convenience for delivery and returns
- Amazon rolling out "zero click" purchases
- 8.2 million people own an Amazon Echo device
- Alexa has 40,000 skills, but only two are used frequently: set a timer and play a song

#### **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**

- Cloud platform
- Offers customer value, convenience, and selection
- Extensive services capability
- Allows prototype and standard for new brand

AWS could be spun out of Amazon





#### **ALIBABA**

- Alibaba is a marketplace, not a retailer
- Alibaba encompasses the functions of Amazon, eBay, PayPal, Google, and FedEx combined
- Total transactions reached \$248 billion in 2017
- eMarketer reports Alibaba has 58.2% share of the retail ecommerce in China
- Alibaba dominates 80% of China's online shopping market
- Alibaba is the world's fifth-largest internet company by revenue

#### Freshippo, Alibaba's Mobile Grocery Store

- Mobile-driven, brick and mortar grocery store chain
- Customers order via kiosks or online
- Part of Alibaba's "new retail" approach
- Option to have groceries cooked and delivered
- Grocery delivery offered within 30 minutes for customers within three kilometers



**TARGET** 

- Target's traffic continues to increase
- Target plans to leverage Shipt's technology platform
- Utilizes Buy Online Pick Up In Store (BOPIS)
- Launched self-checkout to increase customer experience and ROI
- Emphasis on retail employees continues as authentic person-to-person interactions are critical to developing in-store sales



WALMART

- Walmart has a store within 10 miles of 90% of the population in the United States
- Investing in a variety of delivery channels
  - The retail giant acquired Jet.com to further its delivery strategy
- Changing their employee demographics to be digitally native
- Investing heavily in drive-up, pick-up service



### Offline Revolution

- Ninety-percent of retail dollars are still spent in store
- Brick and mortar is experiencing a cultural shift
- Brands need an identity
- Bringing online experience into the store is critical
- Human connection still important (H2H)

#### **INNOVATIVE OFFLINE STORES**

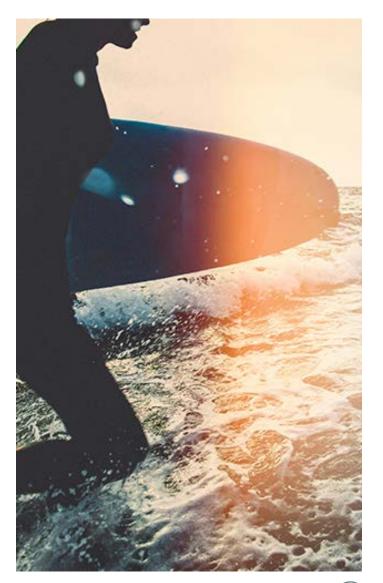
- <u>McDonald's</u> kiosks are helping to increasing sales
- Lowe's new robots assist customers
- <u>Levi's</u> latest next gen store in New York will integrate digital elements
- <u>Museum of Ice Cream</u> delivers an experience that ignites the senses
- <u>Phluid Project</u> is a mission-conscious, non-binary store



### **Turbulent waters**

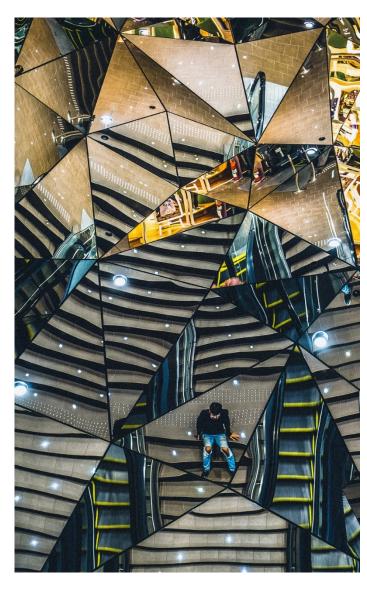
- The market continues to see a high level of retail filings involving several prominent retailers:
  - Sears was one of the largest filings with about 700 stores and 90,000 employees
  - Prior to Toys R Us Chapter 11 Filing they had \$5B in debt and annual interest obligations of \$400M
  - Additional retail filings in 2018 included: Claire's, Nine West, David's Bridal and Brookstone, Mattress Firm, Samuel's Jewelers, National Stores, Gump's, Walking Company, Bon Ton Stores, Kiko Milano USA and A'Gaci.
- 2019 has already seen Charlotte Russe, Payless Stores (2,000 stores) and Shopko file
- Influencing factors include excessive debt, competitive pressures and increasing ecommerce market share

Continueto Climb", *American Bankrupcy Institute*12 Lesk, Sari, "Shopko files for bankruptcy, will close more Wisconsin stores (Updated)", *Milwaukee Business Journal*, January 16, 2019





<sup>&</sup>quot;The Retail Apocalypse Embracing Innovation", *ABF Journal*, Jan/Feb 2019 Gerdan, Samuel J and Ed Flynn, "Chapter 11 Update: Total Filings Hold Steady While Retail Filings Continueto Climb", *American Bankrupcy Institute* 



### Secrets to Omnichannel Success

- Are retailers ready for consumers to buy from different channels?
- Successful omnichannel execution includes the following:
  - Walk in customers shoes
  - Make training a priority
  - Ensure quality is king
  - Validate localization and personalization
  - Put customers at the center of development



### Returns

- It's estimated \$400 billion in merchandise was returned in 2018
- Retailers can benefit from improving the return process to improve customer experience and increase loyalty
  - Leverage data to track 100% of returns to identify the reason for the returns
  - Provide a variety of drop off locations to return products
- Amazon/Kohl's partnership allows customer to painlessly return Amazon inside a Kohl's with no boxing or shipping
- Both retailers win as Kohl's attracts increased traffic and Amazon eases burden of returns and can show case their Echo





# **Lease Accounting Standards**

Much of the focus in 2017 was on revenue recognition, now the focus turns to complying with the lease accounting standards

According to a study by LeaseAccelerator, the biggest obstacle in implementing the new standards is collecting the data as many lease processes have been operating in silos and are decentralized

Two recent proposed changes by FASB may help companies adopt the leasing guidance in a timely manner:

- 1) Allow entities the option to apply the provisions of the new lease guidance at the effective date (January 1, 2019), without adjusting the comparative periods presented
- 2) Allow lessors to elect, under certain circumstances, to not separate the non lease components from the lease

FASB standards will come into effect 2019 for calendar year end public entities, other entities have an additional year to adopt the guidance

# URGENT



# South Dakota vs. Wayfair

#### Ruling

#### Requirements

#### Possible impact to retailers

The Court's ruling of South Dakota vs. Wayfair removed physical presence as a requirement for sales tax nexus

Remote sellers—both online and offline—may be subject to a state's mandatory reporting requirements

Physical presence is no longer the sole nexus standard

Retailers must calculate their sales volume in economic nexus states

Determining the taxability of your products is important

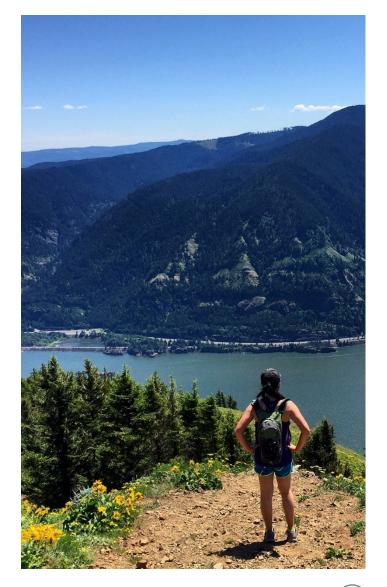


# **The Customer Connection**



### Personalization

- Consumers want personalization
- Promotions and ads must be tailored to the individual
- Data science is driving personalization
- Geography, body type, previous purchases, fabric, style, and color can be used for one-on-one interactions
- Retailers must shift focus from inventory of products to inventory of customers
- Need to drill down to more specific individual characteristics than have traditionally been of focus
- Growing markets should play a part in retailers strategic, long term plan such as non-binary and LGBTQ







### **Millennials**

- Millennials have a combined spending power of \$600 billion
- This segment values: quality, ease of shopping, and convenience
- Millennials are comfortable with self-service checkout
- Very loyal group
- This segment doesn't like credit card debt and is open to alternative payment processes



# The Non-Binary Customer

- Non-binary customers don't identify as male or female
- Phluid Project is the world's first gender agnostic store
- Majority of customers are heterosexual
- The gender-neutral labels movement isn't a passing trend





Women

85%

OF ALL CONSUMER PURCHASES ARE MADE BY FEMALE SHOPPERS **Price** 

IS THE NUMBER ONE INFLUENCER FOR A WOMAN'S PURCHASE

89%

OF WOMEN SAY THEY WILL WATCH FOR AN ITEM TO GO ON SALE BEFORE PURCHASING



### The Brains of Men & Women



- Men want to learn how it works
- Men respond to facts
- Men talk to communicate
- Men view shopping as a necessity
- Men regard asking for help as weakness
- Men respond to messages about winning

- Women want to know the benefits
- Women respond to stories
- Women talk to connect
- Women view shopping as an event
- Women regard asking for help as efficient
- Women respond to messages about improving





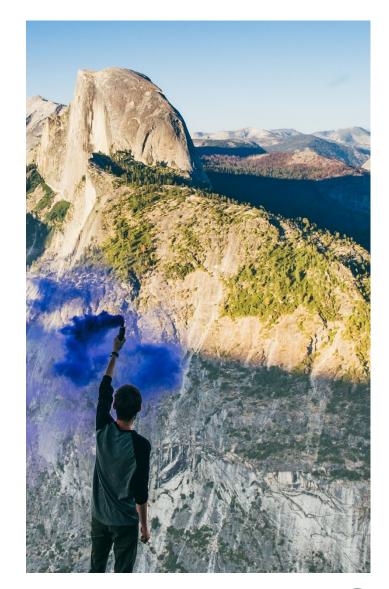
## **LGBTQ**

- The global LGBTQ community has incredible buying power
- Inclusion, diversity, and brand authenticity are very important
- The LGBTQ community has tremendous leverage to advance political advocacy and global human rights
- LGBTQ-inclusive advertising being seen year-round not just during Pride season



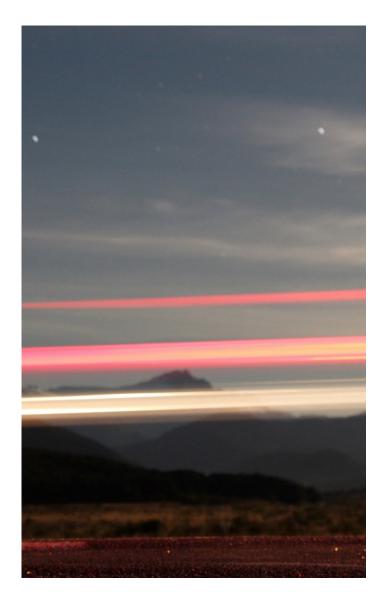
### The Connected Associate

- Demographics of the workforce are changing
- Associates need and want to leverage technology through real-time tools
- Technology can help the associate guide the customer from check-in to check-out
- Human to human (H2H) contact is still essential



# **Technology Rules**





# Leveraging Technology

- Use data to enhance the customer experience
- Data needs to be real-time, easily accessible, and instantly actionable
- Five Retail Analytic Trends
  - Customer metrics
  - Al
  - Daily flash sales reporting
  - 5G networks
  - Inventory awareness

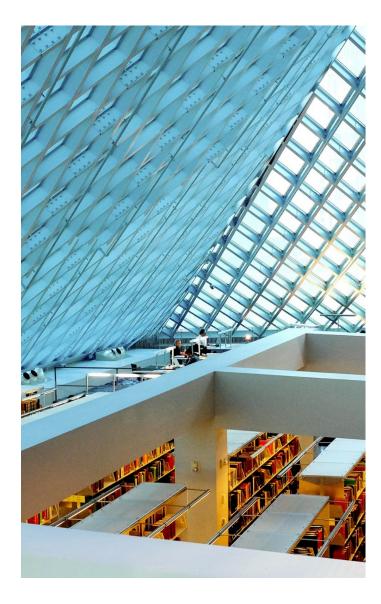


### AI

- AI is predicted to generate \$29 trillion in business value by 2021
- Allows retailers to predict future customer purchases
- AI can be used to capture product placement, location, and how long a customer looks at the item
- AI also helps reduce markdowns by identifying which products should have a higher margin
- Pricing can be fluid based on the day of the week







# **Robots**

- Retail robots being used in retail
- Robotics isn't replacing people but rather assisting them
- Future bot functionality:
  - Platform for information transfer
  - Radio frequency identification (RFID)
  - Data capture
  - Camera analytics
  - Planogram compliance

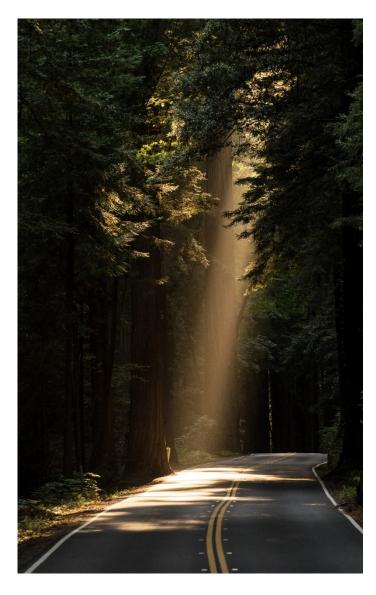


### **Drones**

- Drones will play a larger role in retail's future
- Drones are being used now for a variety of purposes:
  - Food delivery
  - Medical deliveries in remote locations
  - Capturing data
  - Helping with the last mile of delivery
  - Security
  - Checking stock
  - Capturing consumer behavior







### **Autonomous Vehicles**

- Amazon, Kroger, and Walmart are deploying some form of AV technology
- Two big obstacles for AV include the lack of regulatory clarity—especially important during accidents—and customer adoption
- AV has far reaching impact on multiple industries:
  - Bus systems
  - Car insurance
  - Traffic
  - Air travel

Bhattacharyya, Suman, "High End of the Hype Cycle': Retailers are Testing Autonomous Vehicles," *Digiday,* January 2019

Chaturvedi, Aditya, "6 Ways Autonomous Vehicles Could Impact Our Lives," *Geospatial World*, July 2018



# **Voice: The Next Big Platform**

32%

OF CONSUMERS HAVE A VOICE-ACTIVATED DEVICE 40%

OF CONSUMERS WILL SHOP WITH THE HELP OF THESE DEVICES IN THREE YEARS **75**%

OF BUYERS ARE
INTERESTED IN
RECEIVING VOICE
ASSISTANCE IN STORE

# Voice assistance

ALLOWS FOR MULTITASKING WHEN DRIVING, COOKING, AND WORKING



### Visual

Visual technology is being leveraged by a variety of retailers



Amazon's thumbs up- and downvoting mechanism pares down choices



eBay's computer vision makes it easier to find items in the global marketplace



Pinterest recently introduced Lens to inspire ideas using objects in the real world



ASOS, a UK retailer, has an interactive app that allows the user to upload photos and find like items and accessories



### Retail-isms

Term Definition

Non-binary Not gender specific

H2H Human-to-human contact

Offline Brick and mortar

New retail Phrase coined by Alibaba CEO Jack Ma; refers to experience, consumption, and logistics centers rolled into one for a seamless convergence of offline and online

Zero click Company sending customers items based on predictions rather than customers' orders



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