



E-commerce in Belgium

June 5th, 2012





Introduction

To me, the concept of 'online commerce' is becoming a pleonasm. Because trading is done through all channels available – including websites. The boundaries between the classic 'bricks' and the new 'clicks' are disappearing at a stunning pace. Online companies open physical stores, while those who have been selling in brick & mortar-stores, are further exploiting the new channels of e-commerce.

Our second e-commerce survey, still the most comprehensive in its kind, shows that online commerce has reached a certain level of maturity. Some sectors still have tremendous growth potential within the existing online population, while others need to focus on attracting potential customers in the 'offline' world.

These are exciting times for everybody in our trade. I hope this survey will give you an idea of what the future will bring.

Dominique Michel,
Ceo Comeos

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Download the full survey
on www.comeos.be

Colophon

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Objectives & methodology





Objectives & methodology

Background

Comeos represents **Belgian businesses and services**. Our members are active in 18 sectors and sell either to companies or directly to consumers. Together they account for 11.2 % of the GNP and employ 400,000 people, making them the biggest employer in the private sector. Comeos provides custom services for its members and wants to encourage dynamic businesses as a knowledge and networking platform.

Marketing objectives

To get **more insights** in Belgium's e-commerce market and to generate PR-pinut.

Research questions

- What is the online buyer's profile?
- Which products are bought online?
- Which sectors have the highest potential?

Method

Online questionnaire via Talktochange research community

Fieldwork: april 2nd 2012 - april 15th 2012

Scope: Belgium

Sample

N = 1058

Sample screening

Age: 18-70

Online purchases experience in last 12 months

Sample quota

Region: 60% Dutch , 40% French

Gender: 50% Men, 50% Women

Age: Representative for Belgian population

Used symbols



Sig. Higher compared to other group (95%)



Sig. Higher/lower than average (95%)

Comparisons with Comeos 'E-commerce in België 2011'

Same period of field (April 2011) and sample composition to optimize comparability

Objectives & methodology

Used logo's for sectors



comeos
sports

comeos
telecom

comeos
electro

comeos
books

comeos
interior

comeos 
diy & garden

comeos 
fashion

comeos 
toys

comeos 
health & beauty

comeos 
entertainment


comeos 
food





E-commerce experience





46% of the Belgian internet population has
made an **online purchase** in the past year

General trust **in the security of e-commerce** has risen

(from **64%** in 2011 to **70%** in 2012)

E-commerce experience

Penetration

Q: Have you ever bought new products or services via the Internet for personal purposes? We refer to ordering new, not second-hand, products or services via an e-commerce website of a company (not via e-mail).

Q: Did you buy new products or services via the Internet for personal purposes in the past 12 months? We refer to ordering new, not second-hand, products or services via an e-commerce website of a company (not via e-mail).

	EVER PURCHASED ONLINE		PURCHASED ONLINE LAST YEAR	
	2012	2011	2012	2011
ONLINE POPULATION	67%	66%	59%	58%
BELGIAN POPULATION*	52%	52%	46%	45%

* Extrapolated to the Belgian population regarding the current internet-population (78%)

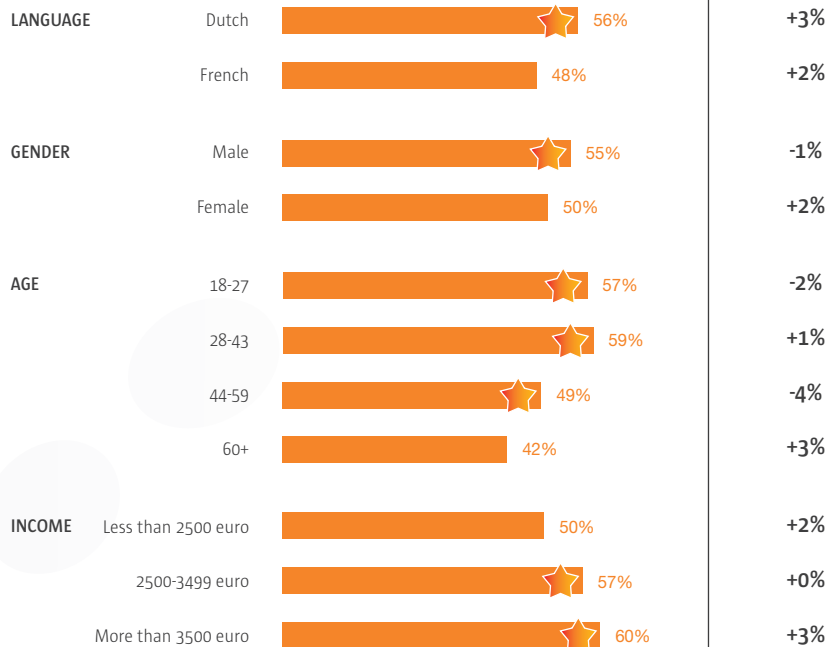
E-commerce experience

Penetration (profile)

Q: Have you ever bought new products or services via the Internet (for personal purposes)?

% = EVER PURCHASED WITHIN BELGIAN POPULATION

EVOLUTION 2012 - 2011



For younger, Dutch-speaking people within the higher income-rank, online shopping is more popular.

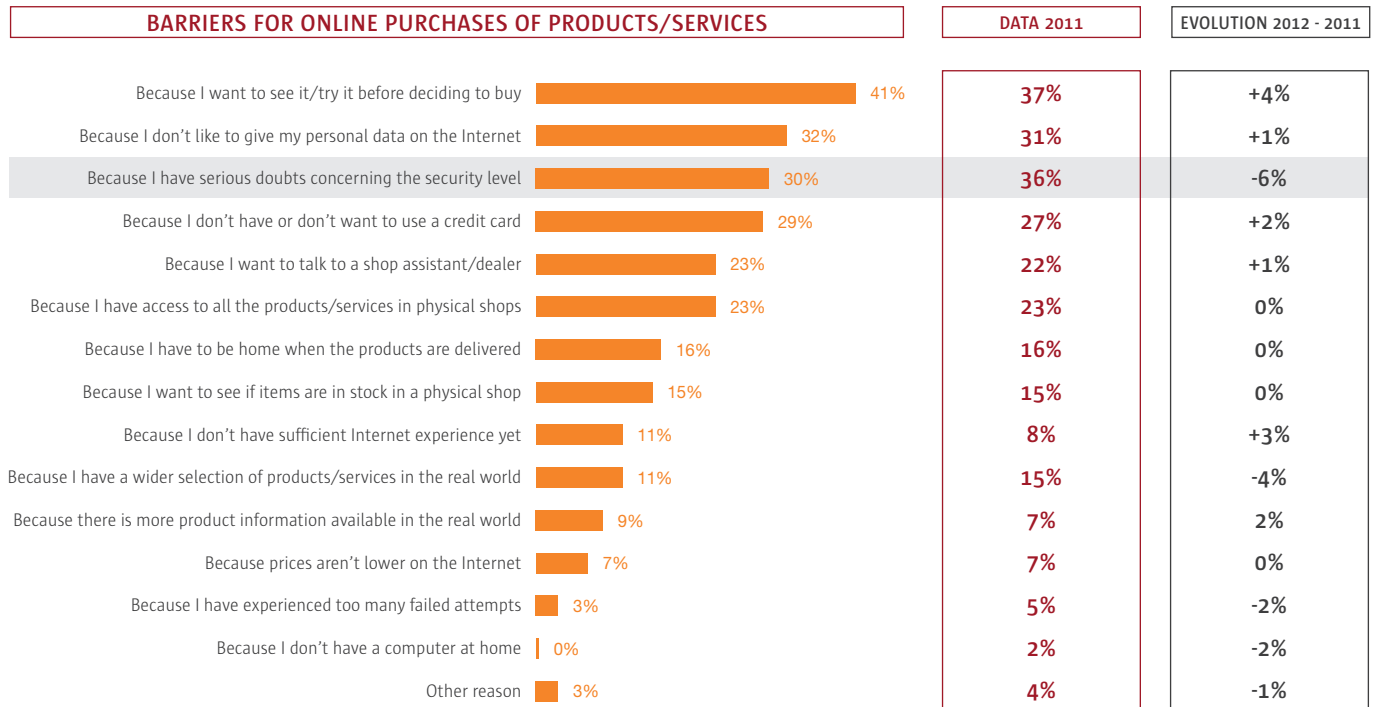
N = 2223 / F = None

 Sign. difference (95%)

E-commerce experience

Barriers


Q: What are the 3 main reasons why you did not purchase products or services online?



N = 656 / F = Only if never purchased online before

Current online shopping behaviour





1 in 5 online buyers did his/her **first online** purchase in the past year.

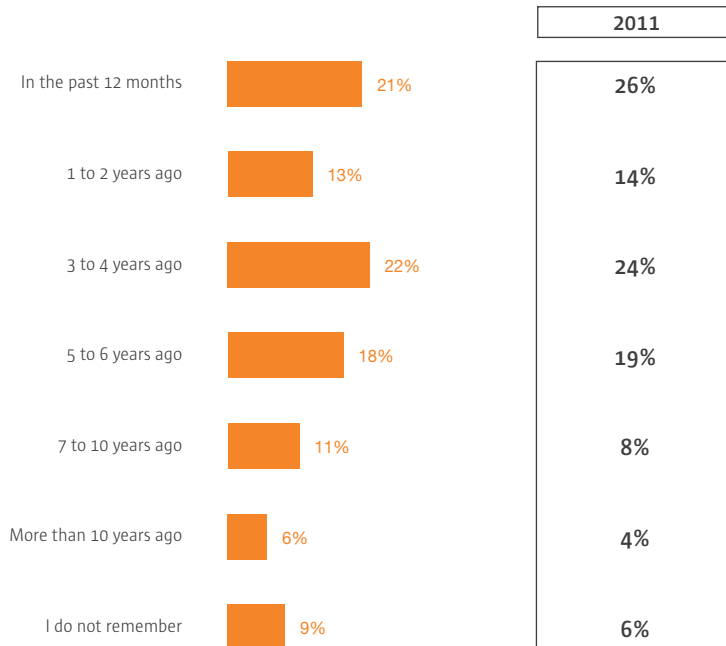
Younger people, women and people with lower income levels have also found their way to e-commerce in the past two years.

Last year, e-commerce was mostly related to new purchases. This year we see an **equal spread between new and replacement purchases.**

Current online shopping behaviour

Experience

Q: When did you first buy something via the Internet (for personal purposes)?



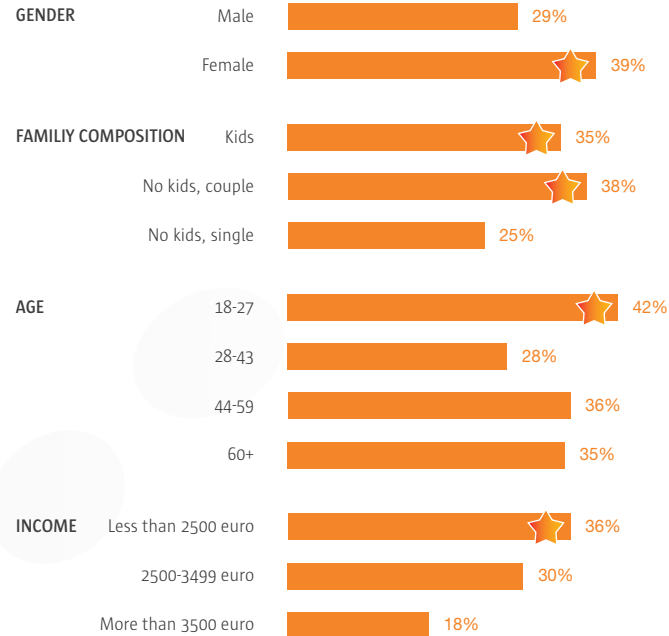
As 1 in 5 online buyers did his/her first online purchase in the past 12 months, there is a high inflow of new online buyers.

Current online shopping behaviour

Experience (profile)

Q: When did you first buy something via the Internet (for personal purposes)?

% = FIRST ONLINE PURCHASE IN LAST TWO YEARS



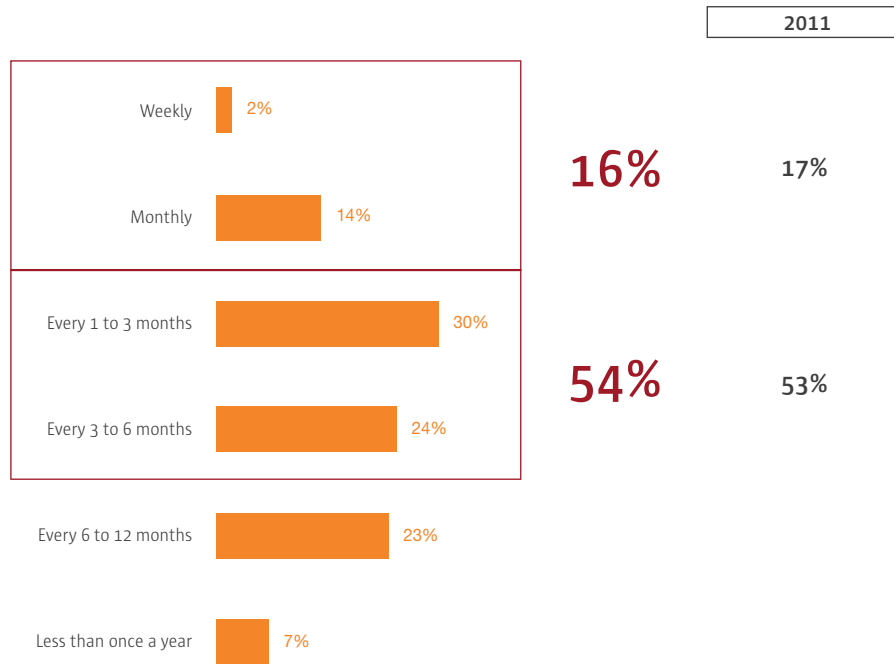
★ Sign. difference (95%)

Younger people, women, and people with a lower income have had a first e-commerce experience in the last two years more often than the other groups

Current online shopping behaviour

Frequency

Q: How frequently do you buy something via the Internet (for personal purposes)?



1 in 6 online buyers
buys online every
month

Half of them buys
online every 3 to
6 months

Current online shopping behaviour

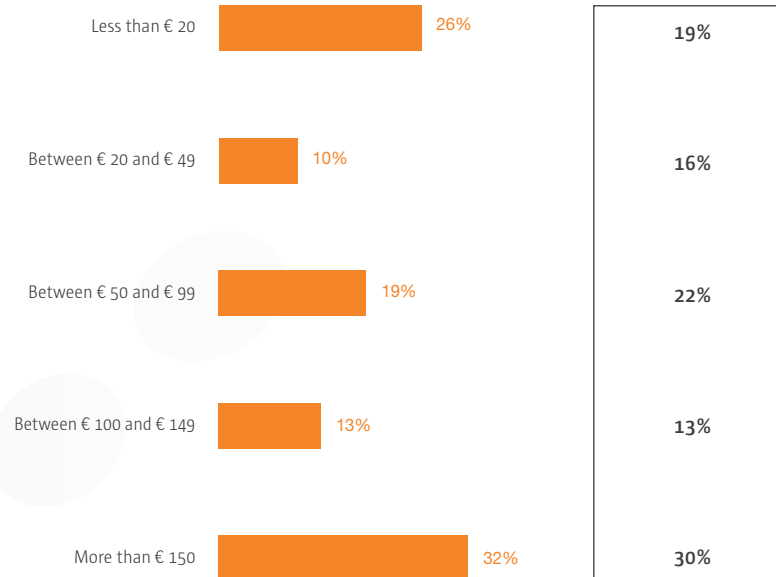
Monthly budget

Q: How much did you spend online in the past month?

Average = € 163 / month
(€ 1.944 / year)

2011: Average € 130 / month
(€ 1.560 / year)

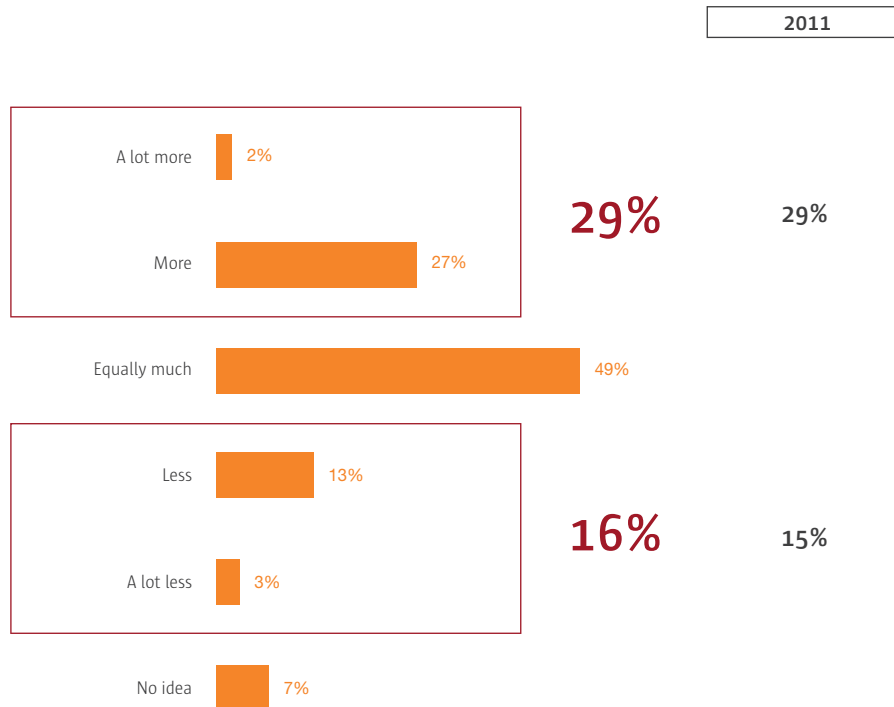
1 in 3 bought online
for more than € 150
last month



Current online shopping behaviour

Evolution budget

Q: Do you spend less or more now than you did 1 year ago?



E-commerce in Belgium is obviously expanding

3 out of 10 online buyers already spend more than 1 year ago

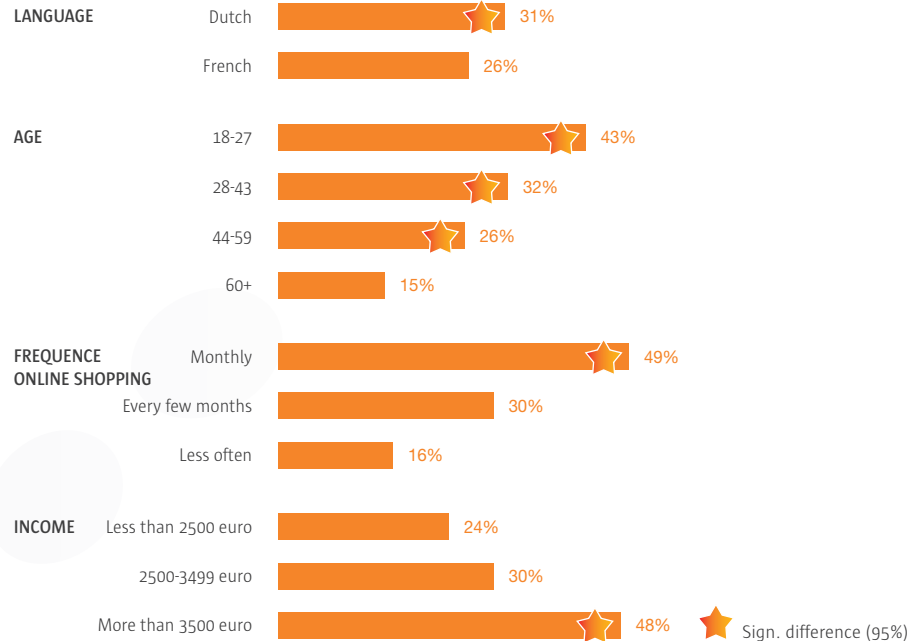
This evolution was already going on last year and is not in- or decreasing

Current online shopping behaviour

Evolution budget (profile)

Q: Do you spend less or more now than you did 1 year ago?)

% = SPENDING (A LOT) MORE

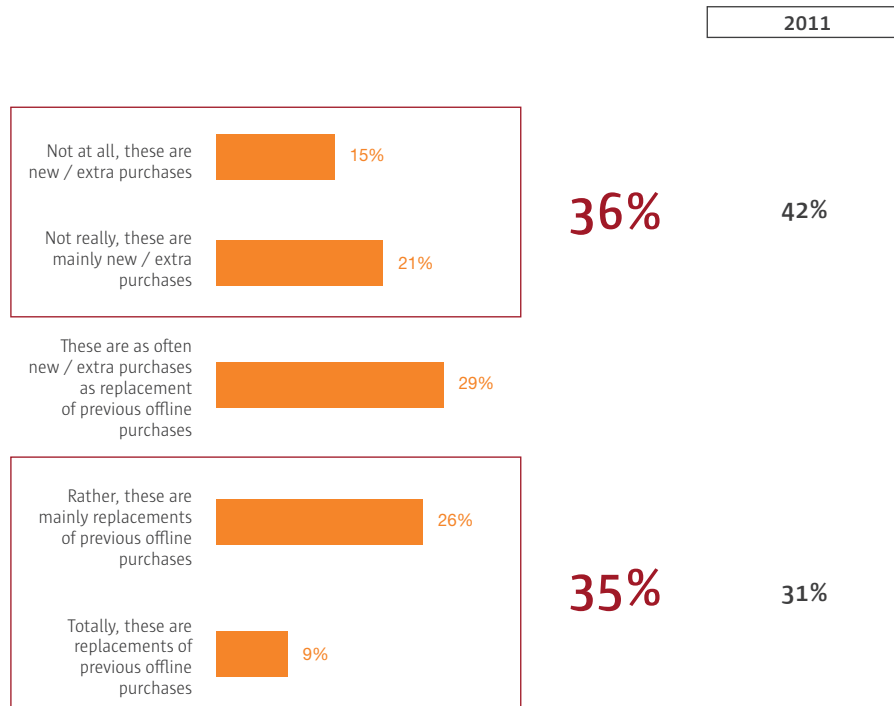


People who are strongly represented amongst online buyers are also the ones who spend more than one year ago

Current online shopping behaviour

Substitution offline purchases

Q: To what extent do these purchases via the Internet replace offline purchases?

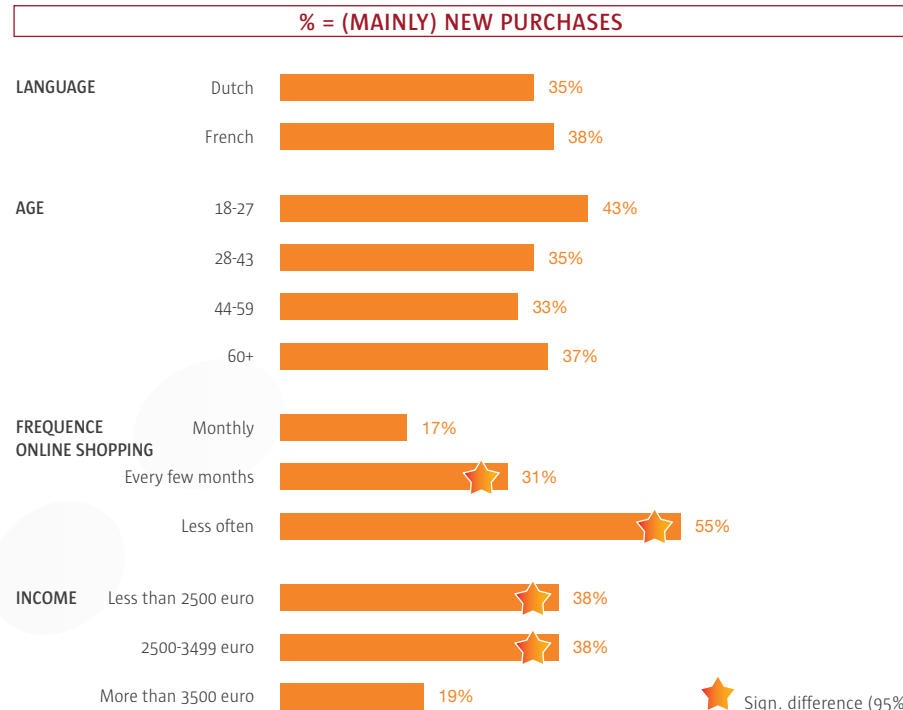


While e-commerce purchases were mainly new purchases last year, we now see an equal spread between new and replacement purchases

Current online shopping behaviour

Substitution offline purchases (profile)

Q: To what extent do these purchases via the Internet replace offline purchases?



Especially for people with lower and intermediate incomes and people who shop online less often than monthly, online purchases are new purchases



Online purchases





An online buyer is loyal: **89%** will buy online again in the future (in 2011 this was 84%)

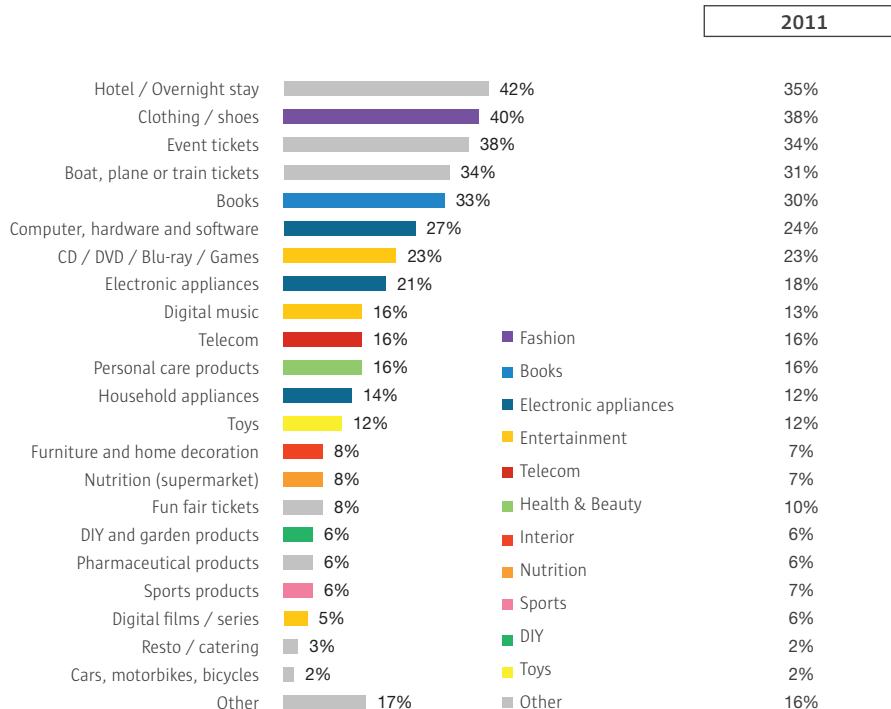
1 in 5 online buyers looks for information offline

Online information is still the most important source of information though

Online purchases

Current purchase new products

Q: Which new products or services did you buy via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months?



Top 5 consists of
Hotels/fashion, Event
/ transport tickets and
books.

The products in this
top 5 are the same
as last year. They
have all increased in
importance

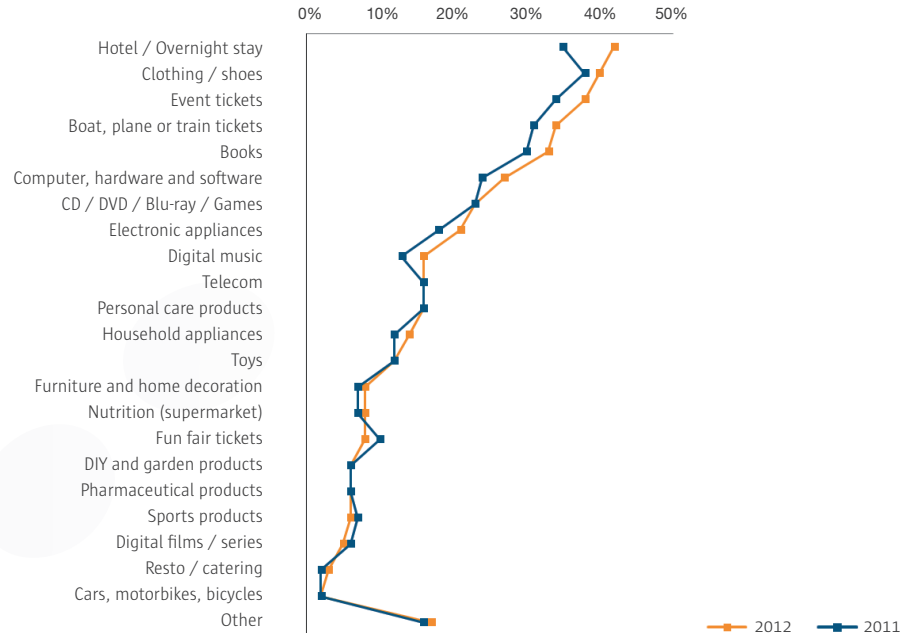
Online purchases

Current purchase new products

Q: Which new products or services did you buy via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months?

The majority of products is bought online more often than in 2011

For fun fair tickets, sports products and digital films/series, we see a small decrease.



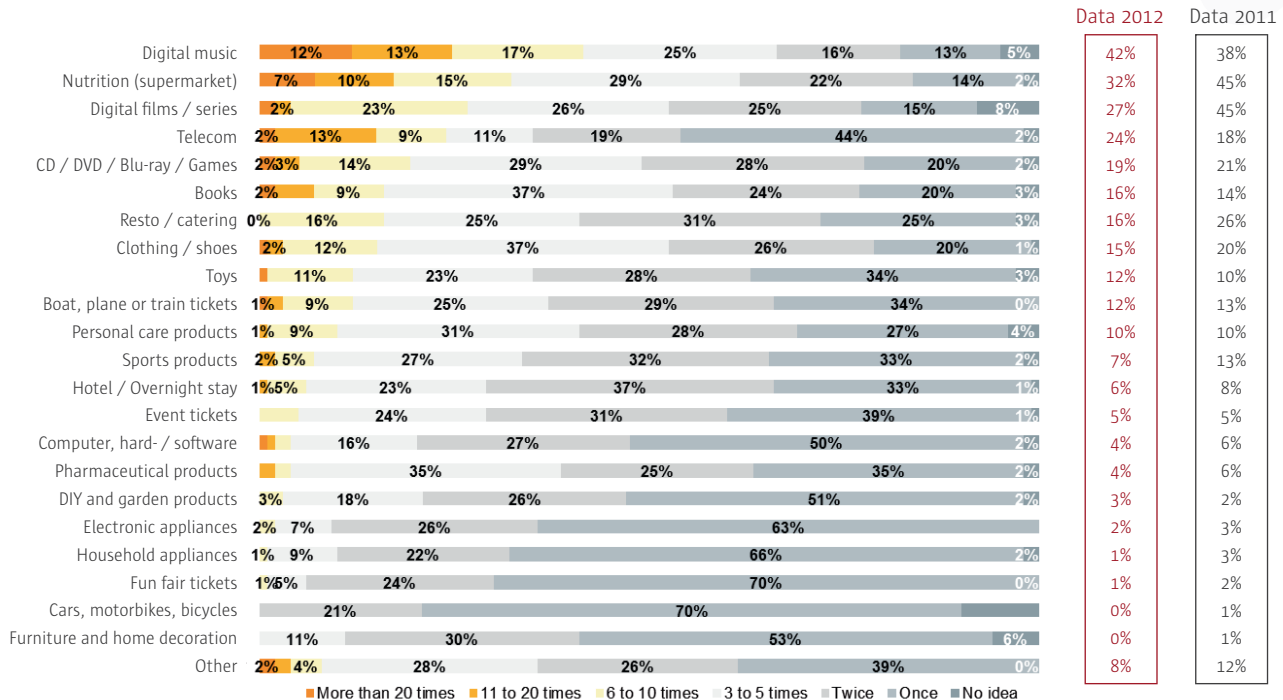
Online purchases

Frequency current online purchases

Q: Please indicate how often you bought the following new products via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months

Digital music, nutrition and Digital films/series are bought most frequently

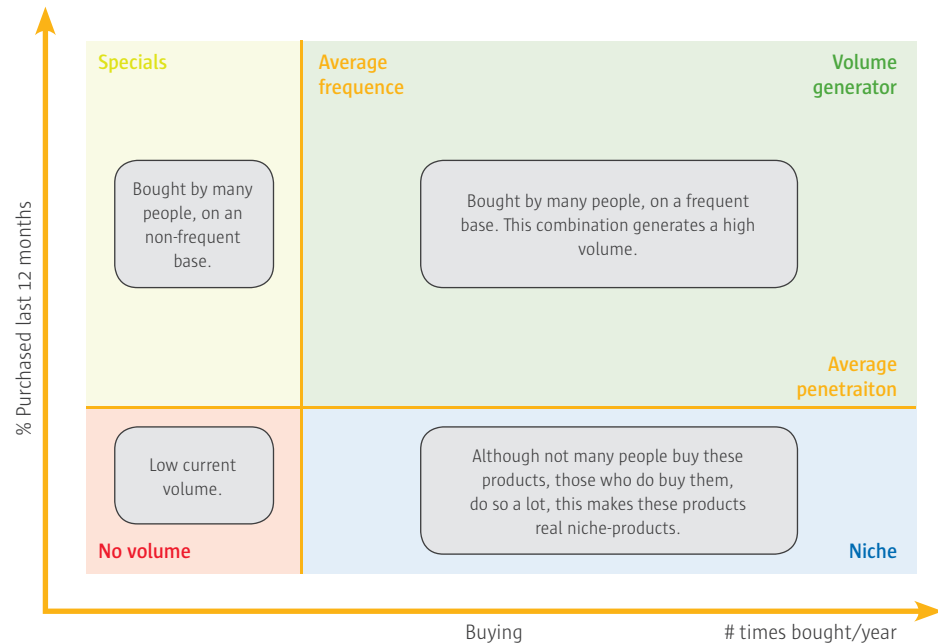
BOUGHT ONLINE MORE THAN 5 TIMES IN THE PAST YEAR



Online purchases - Current purchase of new products (Quadrant methodology)

Q: Which new products or services did you buy via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months?

Q: Please indicate how often you bought the following new products via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months

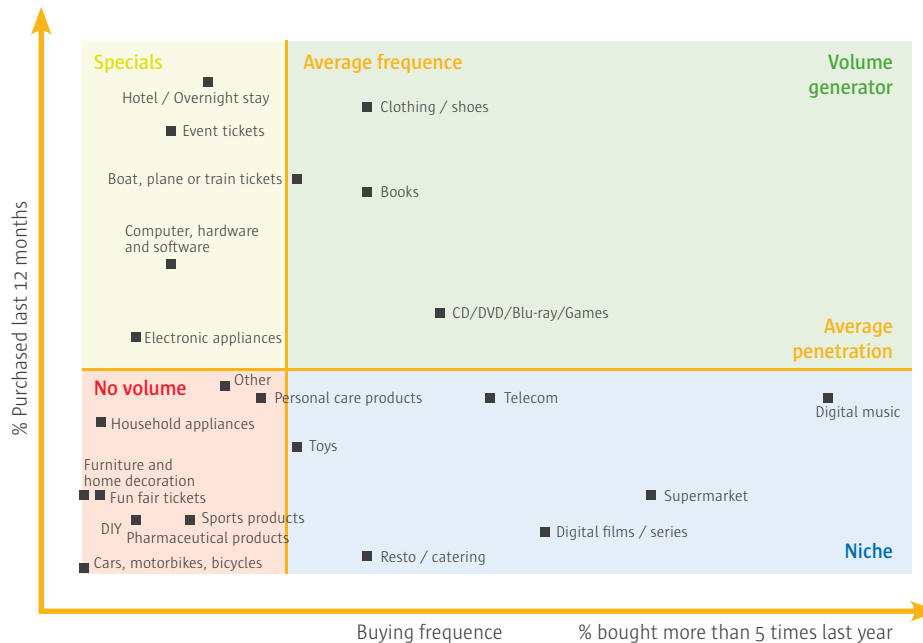


Online purchases

Current purchase of new products (Quadrant) 2012

Q: Which new products or services did you buy via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months?

Q: Please indicate how often you bought the following new products via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months



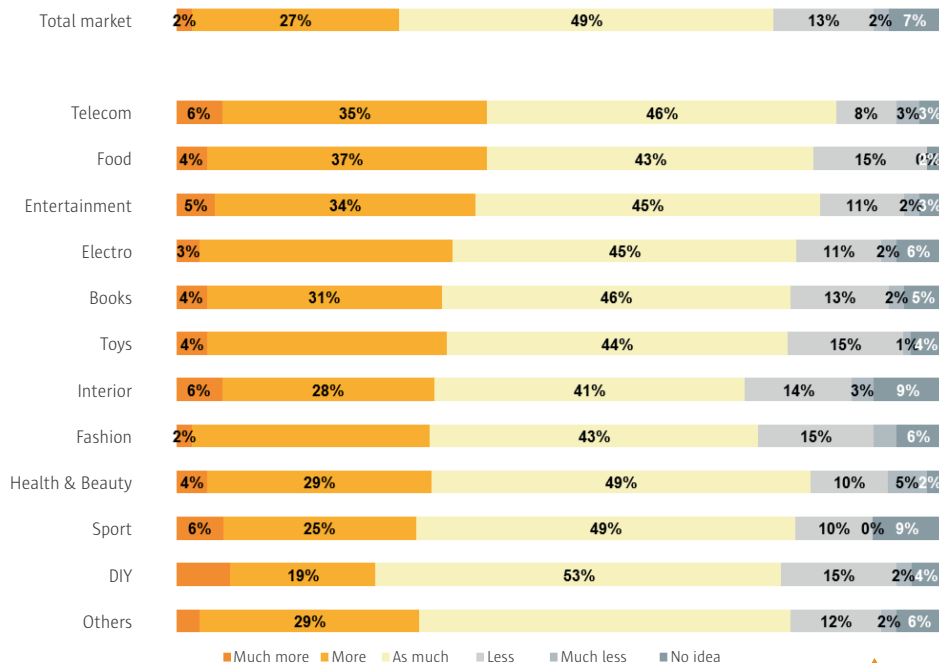
Clothing /shoes, books and CD/DVD/Blu-ray are real volume generators, while Telecom, Digital music and Supermarket food are more niche markets

Online purchases

Future intention to buy

Q: Do you expect to buy the following products more or less in the future?

The number of people who want to buy (much) more online has, compared to 2011 and throughout all sectors, increased by 10%. For some sectors, such as **Telecom, Electro, Interior and Fashion**, we notice a doubling compared to last year.



Top 2
score
2012

Top 2
score
2011

29%

19%

41%

15%

41%

33%

39%

21%

36%

18%

35%

19%

35%

Not
measured

34%

12%

33%

16%

33%

12%

31%

18%

26%

10%

32%

24%

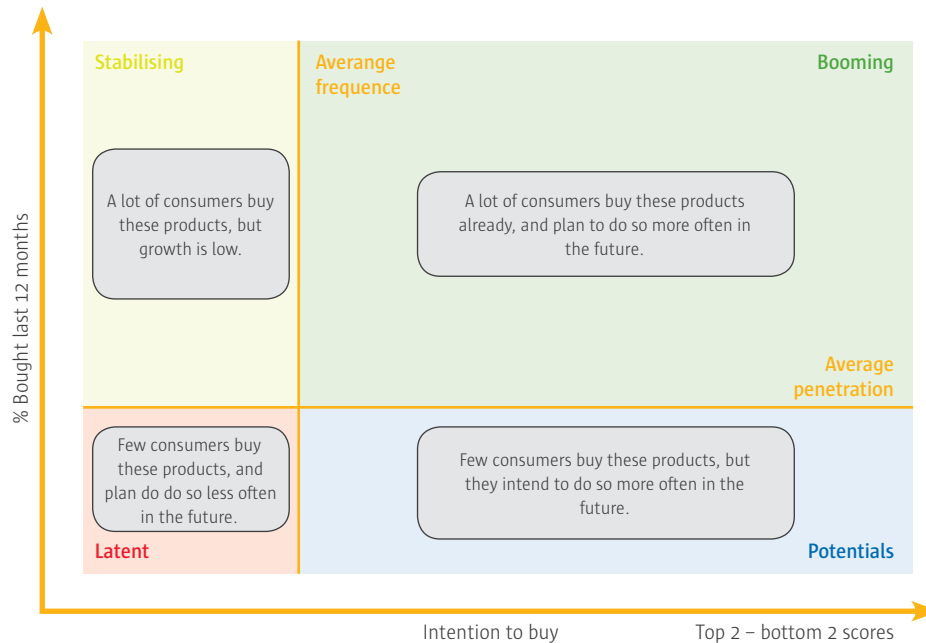
★ Sign. higher than min. 1 other group (95%)

Online purchases

Future purchase new products (Quadrant methodology)

Q: Which new products or services did you buy via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months?

Q: Do you expect to buy the following products more or less in the future?



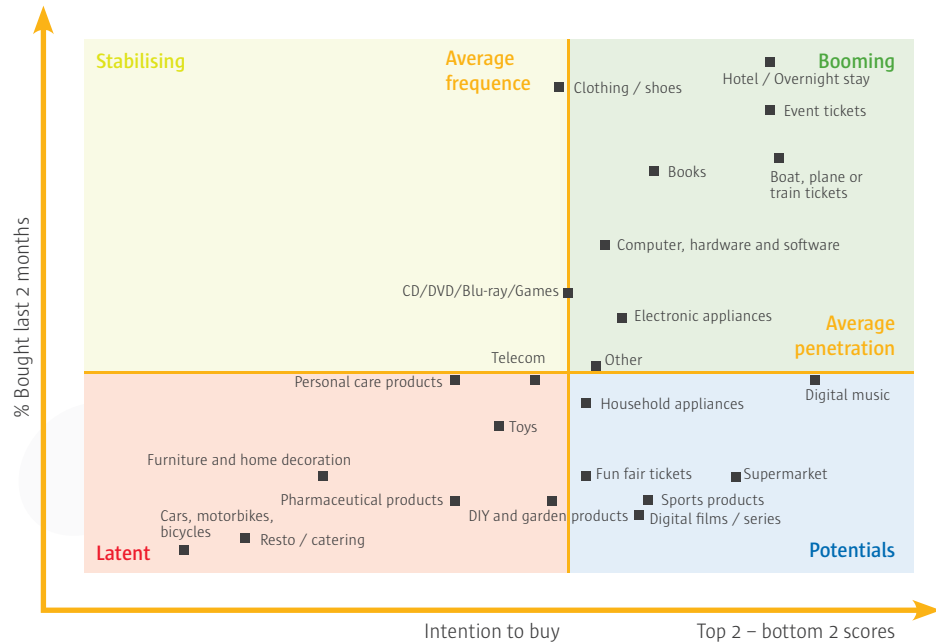
Online purchases

Future purchase of new products (Quadrant) 2012

Q: Which new products or services did you buy via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months?

Q: Do you expect to buy the following products more or less in the future?

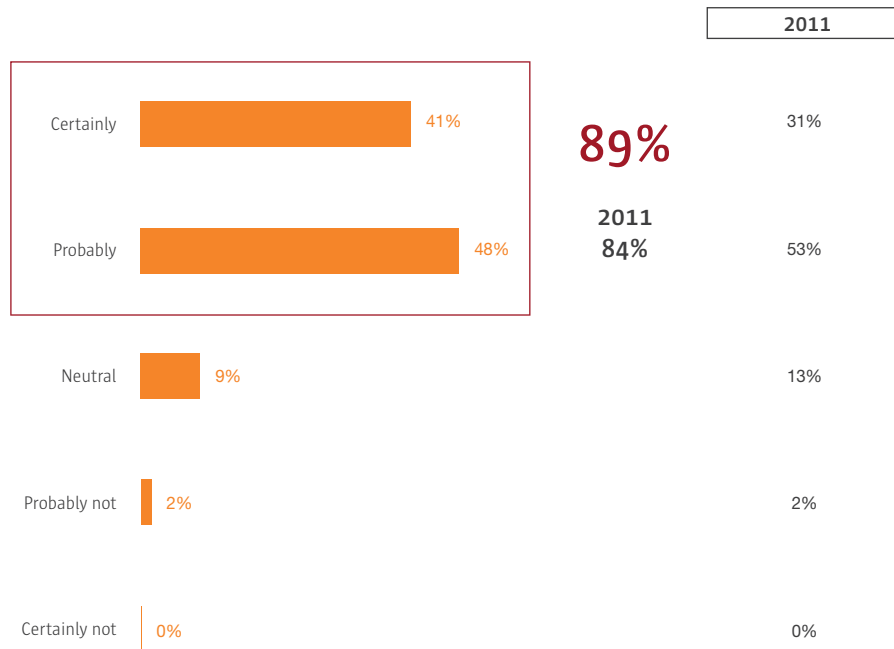
Tickets, hotel and books and electronics are already bought on a regular base and are expected to be bought even more in the future. On the other hand, digital music/films/series, sports products and household appliances are not that popular yet, but are expected to be bought more in the future, making them high potentials.



Online purchases

Future intention to buy

Q: How likely are you to purchase other new products or services on the Internet in the future?



An online buyer stays an online buyer

The intention to buy online again is very strong and has increased compared to 1 year ago

98 % of online consumers expects to keep buying online in the future

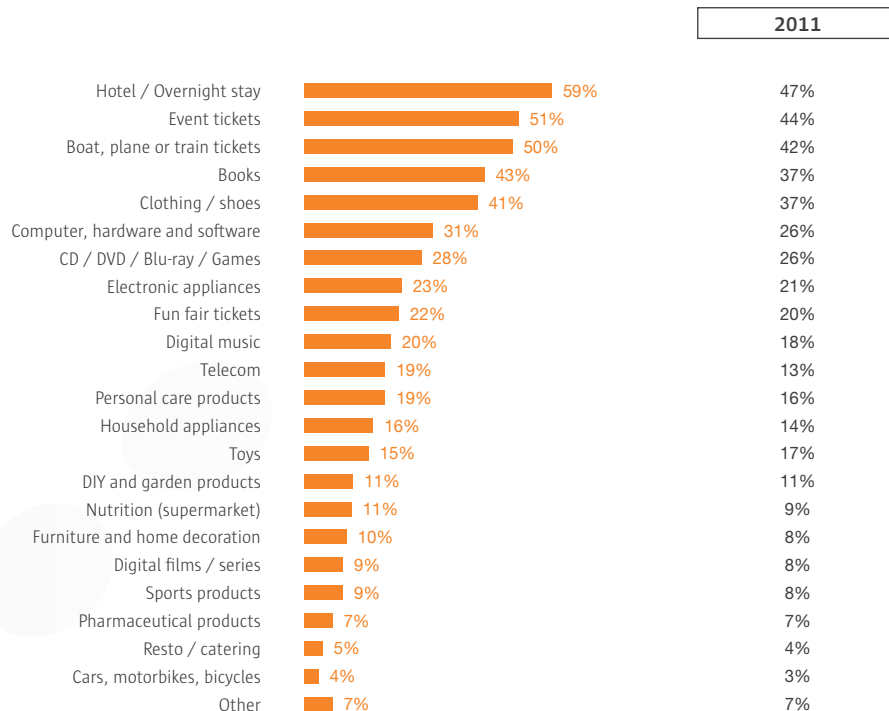
Online purchases

Intention to buy next 12 months

Q: Which of the following products would you consider purchasing online in the coming 12 months?

Top 5 consists of the same products as last year.

The intention to buy is higher for all of the top 5 products/services, as it is for most products/services

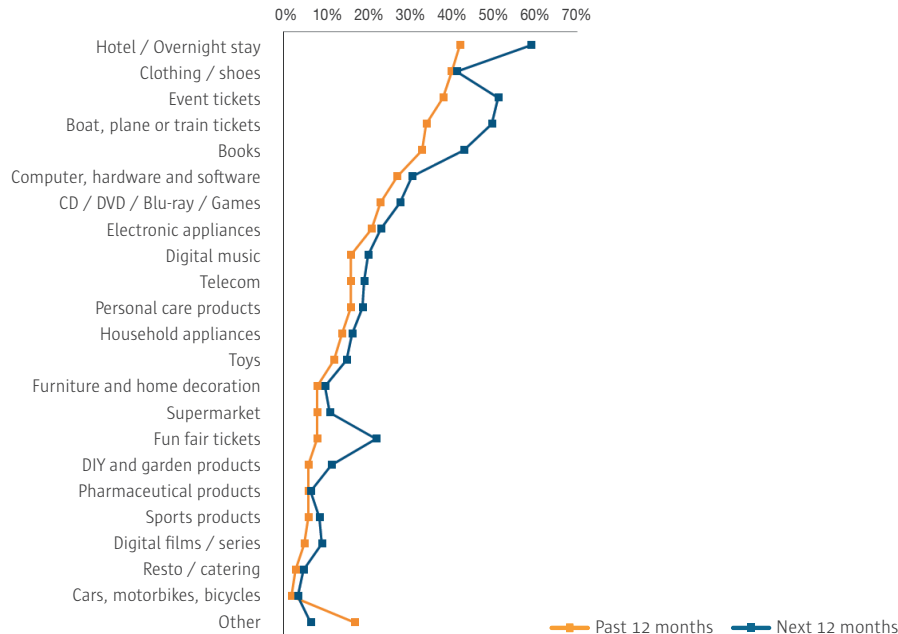


Online purchases

Evolution new products

Q: Which new products or services did you buy via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months?

Q: Which of the following products would you consider purchasing online in the coming 12 months?



Strongest risers in the coming 12 months will be hotels, books, transport / fun fair- and event tickets.

The intention to buy in the coming 12 months is higher than the purchases made in the past 12 months.

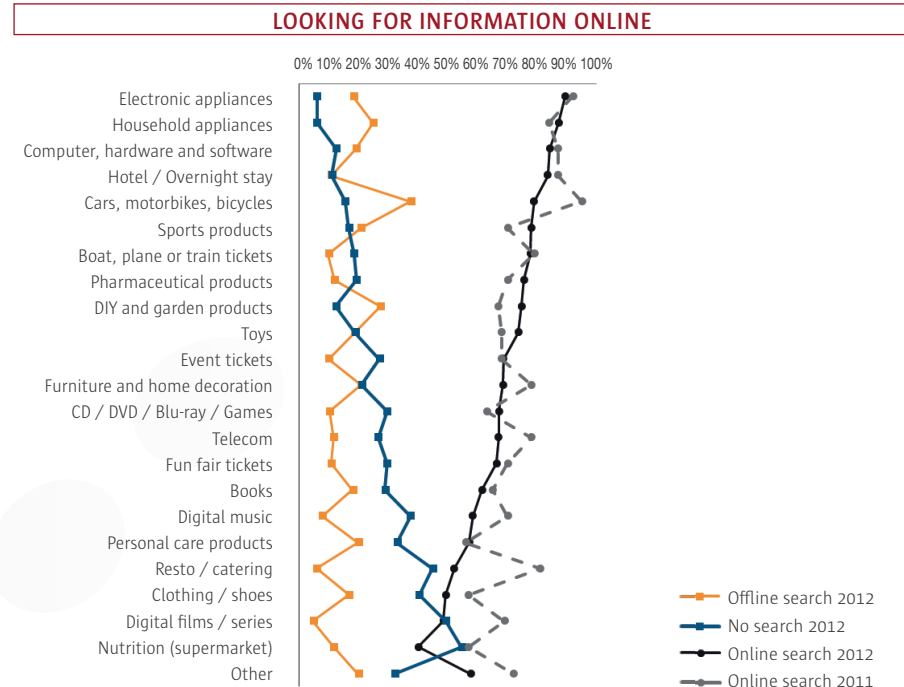
Online purchases

Looking for information

Q: To what extent have you looked for information before buying the following products online?

1 in 5 online buyers keeps on looking for information offline (especially for vehicles, DIY and furniture/household products).


The most important source of information is online. For Vehicles, Resto/catering, Telecom and Decoration, this source has gained in importance



Sector focus

The background of the slide features a color gradient from deep red on the left to bright orange on the right. Overlaid on this gradient are several large, semi-transparent circles in various shades of orange and yellow, creating a layered, organic effect. The text 'Sector focus' is positioned on the left side, centered vertically, in a white, bold, sans-serif typeface.





The main driver for e-commerce is the **time saving aspect**, which is prominent for online purchases in the **food sector**.

Websites in the **toys sector** have the **highest scores on satisfaction**, whereas telecom and sport websites score the lowest on likeability.

2 out of 5 online shoppers prefer **home delivery**, the minority is willing to pay for flexible delivery timings.

Sector focus

Drivers for E-commerce (Conclusions)

The main driver for e-commerce is the **time saving aspect**. More than 2 out of 5 online-shoppers consider this as one of the top three reasons for purchasing products online.



The online purchase of electro is less driven by the time saving aspect, but mainly by the **lower price** and the possibility to **compare and read reviews on different products**.



Saving time is less present as a reason for buying fashion items online. **The availability of coupons and reductions** is the biggest driver.



The **time saving** aspect is the main reason for buying food products online. Moreover does it allow to **shop 24/7 and avoid crowds**.



This online sector is, apart from the time saving aspect, mainly driven by the possibility to have your books **delivered at home**.



Home delivery and the accessibility to special promotions and reductions are the main reasons for buying health and beauty products online.

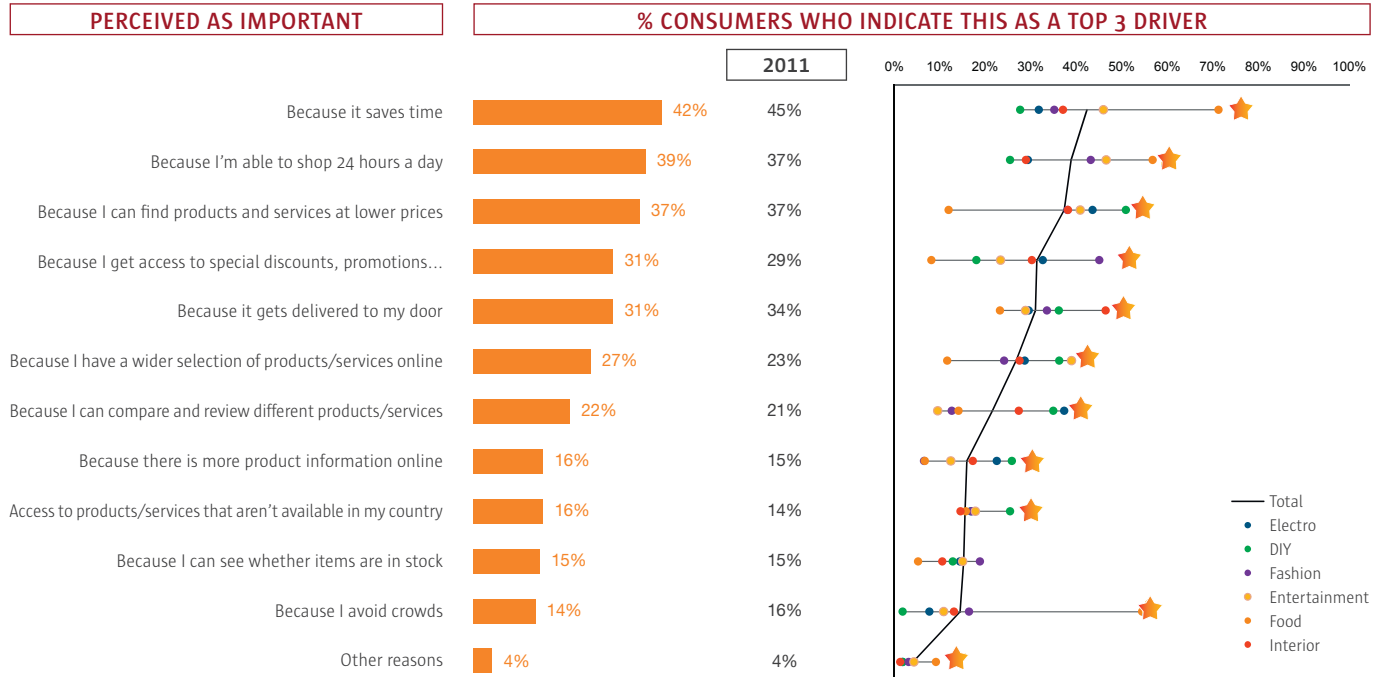


The main reason for purchasing telecom online is, besides **saving time**, driven by the possibility to buy **24/7**.

Sector focus

Drivers for E-commerce (sectordetails 1/2)

Q: What are the 3 main reasons why you bought this product online?



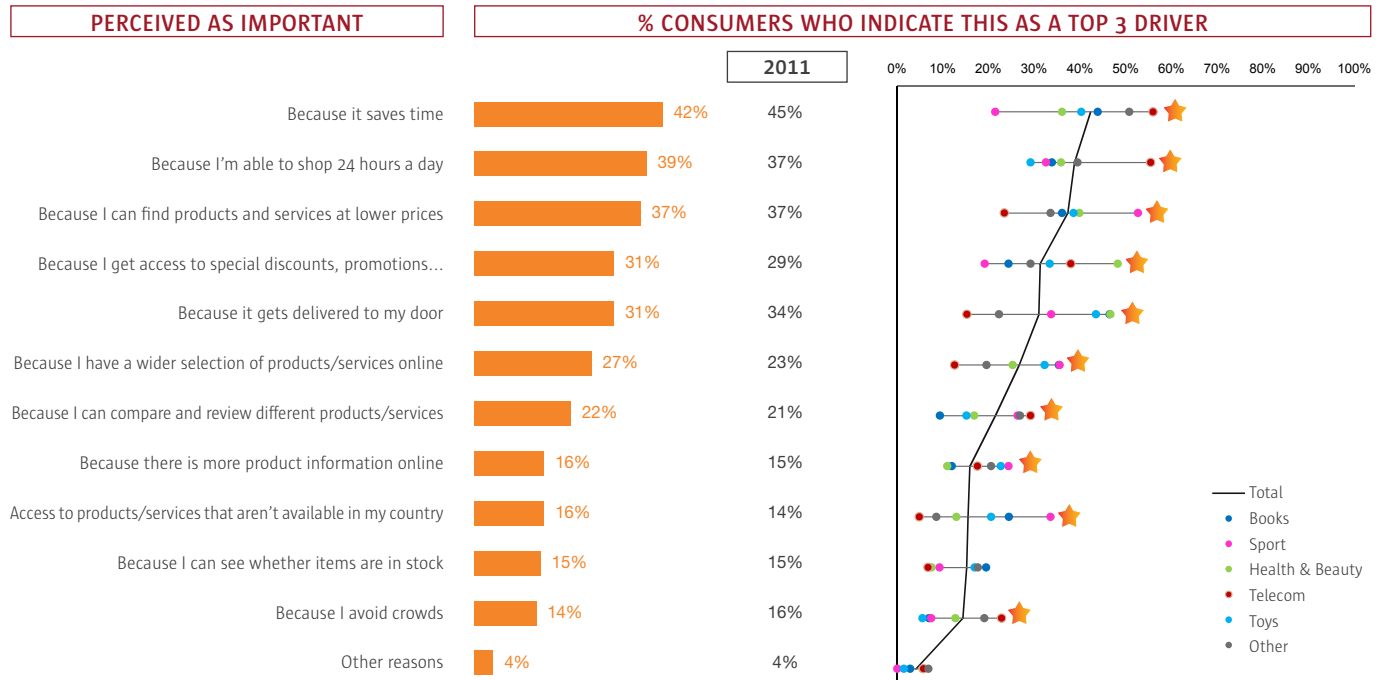
N(Electro) = 396, N(DIY) = 54, N(Fashion) = 377 N(Entertainment) = 317; N(Food) = 76; N(Interior) = 74 / F = Bought product before

★ Sign. higher than min. 1 other sector (95%)

Sector focus

Drivers for E-commerce (sectordetails 2/2)

Q: What are the 3 main reasons why you bought this product online?



N(Telecom) = 103; N(Sport) = 71; N(Health & Beauty) = 106; N(Books) = 214; N(Toys) = 71; N(Other) = 555 / F = Bought product before

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Online product purchase

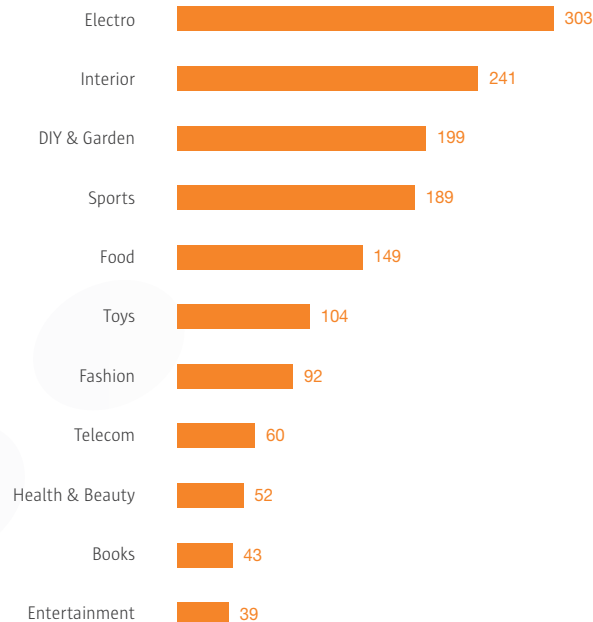
Purchase amount

Q: How much money did you spend at your most recent online purchase?

On average online shoppers spend
€ 187.

The largest amounts
are spent in the
electro, interior and/or
Do-it-yourself sector.

Online shoppers spend
the least on books and
the entertainment
sector.

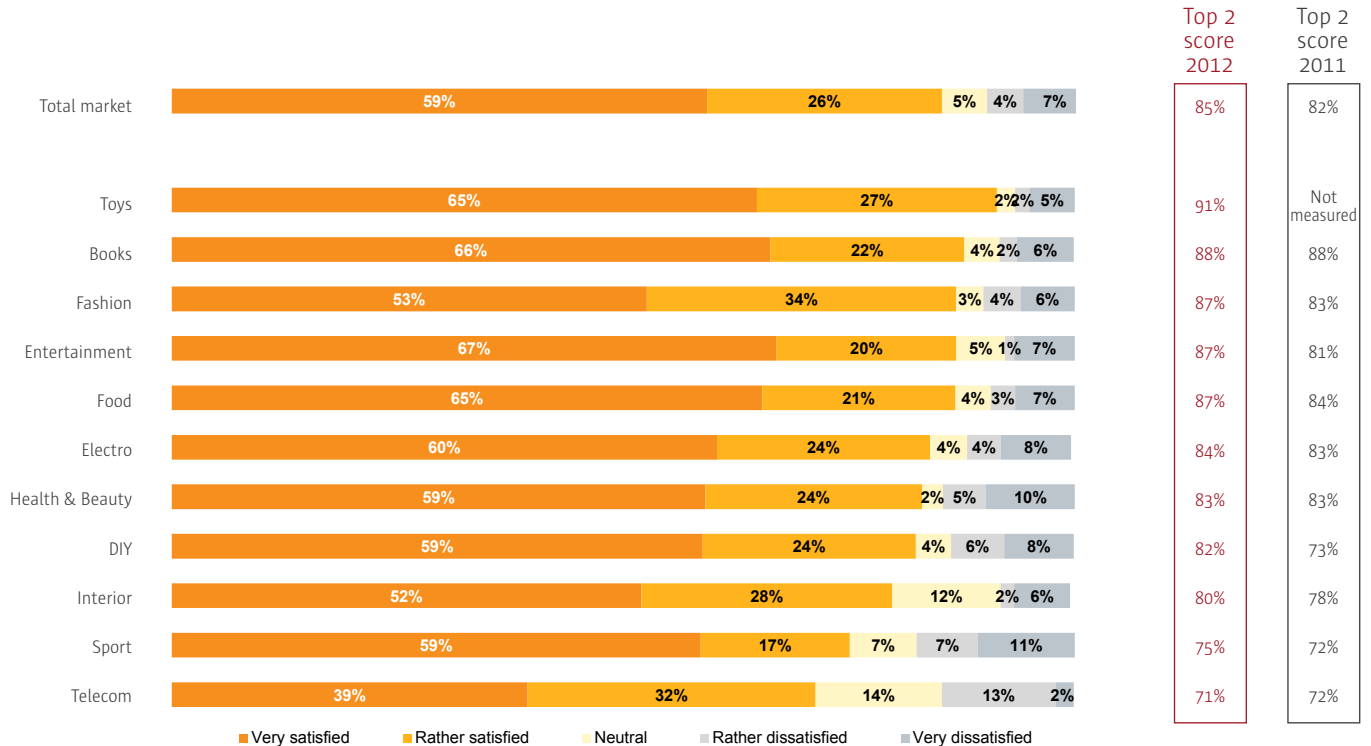


Sector focus

Website satisfaction

Q: How satisfied were you with using the e-commerce website after your most recent online purchase?

Overall satisfaction scores for the e-commerce sites are high. Websites within the **toy sector** have the **highest likeability**, more than 9 out of 10 is satisfied with the website. Websites from the Sport or Telecom sector have the lowest satisfaction.

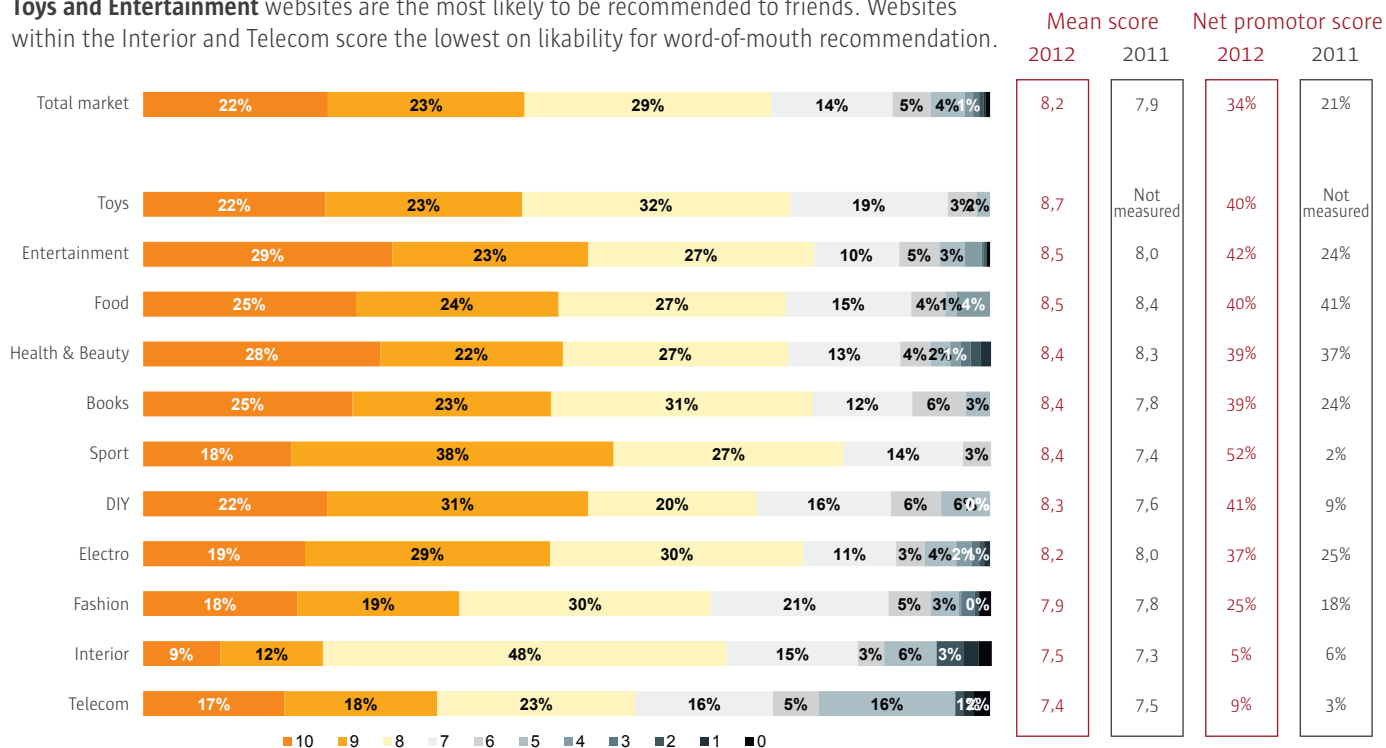


Sector focus

Recommend website

Q: How likely are you to recommend 'website' to a friend, on a scale from 0 to 10?

Toys and Entertainment websites are the most likely to be recommended to friends. Websites within the Interior and Telecom score the lowest on likability for word-of-mouth recommendation.



Sector focus

Drivers website (conclusions)

Price is the main reason why a specific website is chosen for purchasing a product or service.



Price plays an important role in the choice of electro e-commerce websites.



Do-it-yourself websites are less driven by price compared to other sectors. The '**coincidence factor**' is the reason why shoppers purchase on a specific website.



Price and **positive previous experience** are the main reasons for choosing a fashion website for online purchases.



Price has no impact on the choice of food e-commerce websites. **Previous experience and fast delivery** are rather important choice drivers.



Price is less a decision maker when buying furniture and interior products online. These websites are mainly driven by **product selection** / **availability and coincidence**.

Sector focus

Drivers website (sector details 1/2)

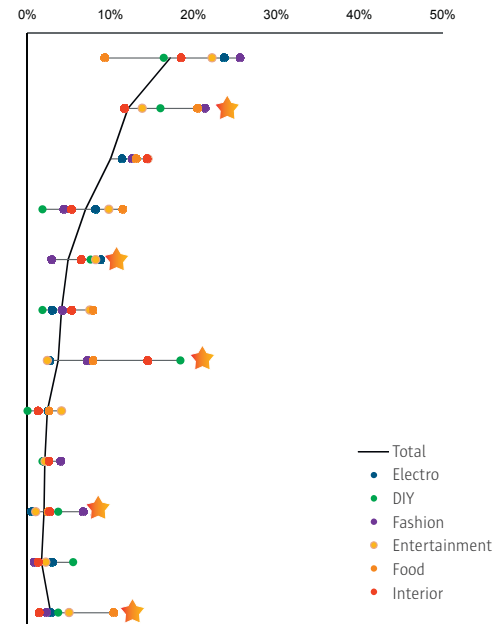
Q: Why did you use 'website' for your online purchase?

PERCEIVED AS MOST IMPORTANT



% CONSUMERS WHO INDICATE THIS AS MOST IMPORTANT DRIVER

2011



N(Electro) = 396, N(DIY) = 54, N(Fashion) = 377 N(Entertainment) = 317; N(Food) = 76; N(Interior) = 74 / F = Bought product before

★ Sign. higher than min. 1 other sector (95%)

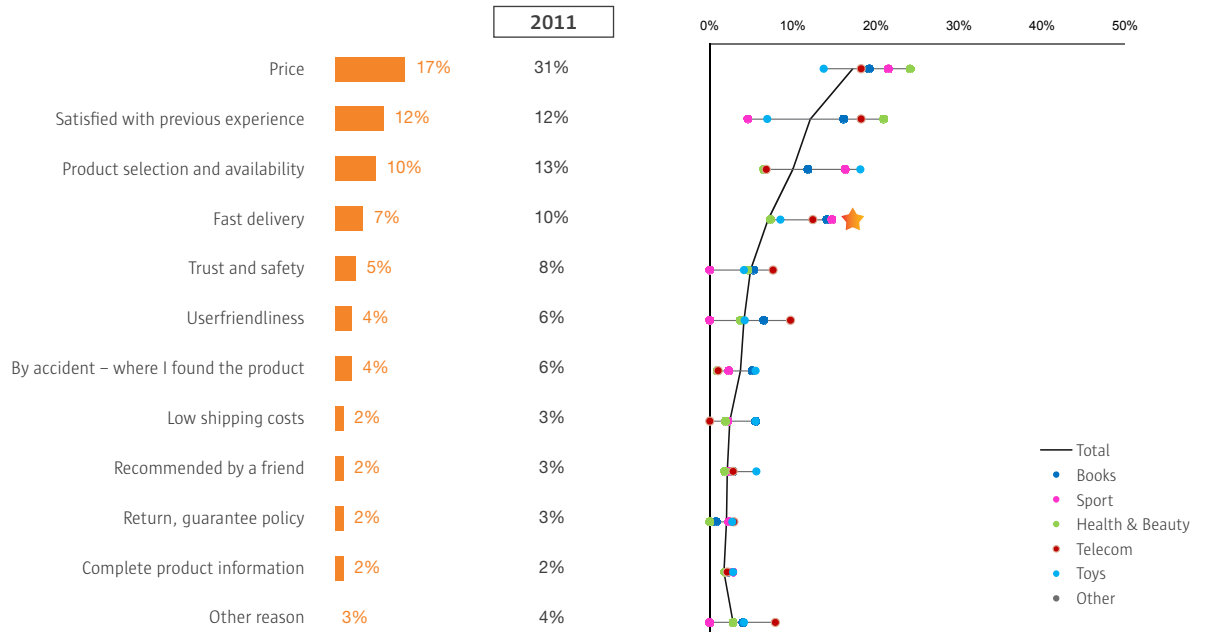
Sector focus

Drivers website (sector details 2/2)

Q: Why did you use 'website' for your online purchase?

PERCEIVED AS MOST IMPORTANT

% CONSUMERS WHO INDICATE THIS AS MOST IMPORTANT DRIVER



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★ Sign. higher than min. 1 other sector (95%)

Sector focus

Online payment (conclusions)

Almost half of the online shoppers pays online with a credit card. This payment method exceeds offline payment with bank transfer and online payment with a debit card.



Online **payment with credit card** is the main payment method for products in the entertainment sector. Offline payment methods are hardly used for these transactions.



In the food sector **offline payment methods** are the norm. Online payment methods are not (yet) used on a frequent basis.



Offline bank transfers are not uncommon for online purchases of furniture and interior products, this might be explained by the price of the products in this sector.



The online payment of books is done using a **credit card**, while the offline payment is often done through **bank transfer**.



Transactions regarding fashion products bought online are mainly paid by **bank transfer** and **credit card**.



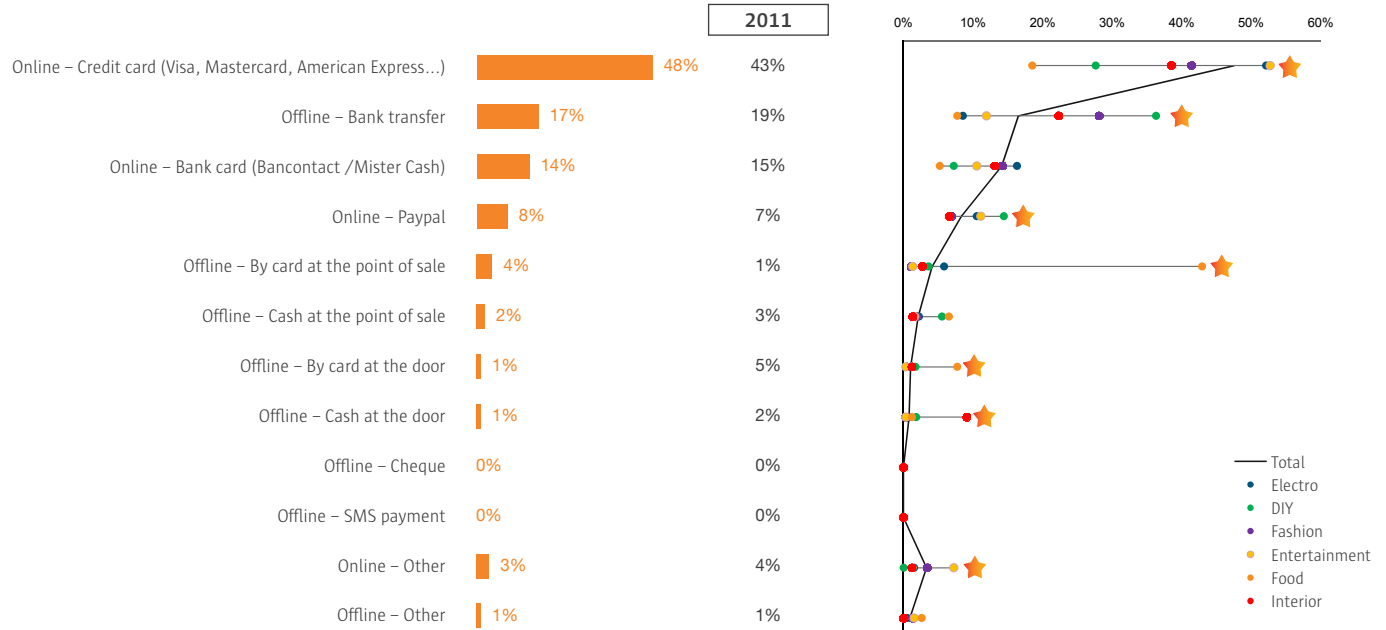
In the telecom sector online payment is often done by **debit card**. Online payments using a credit card are less common compared to the other sectors.

Sector focus

Payment method (sector details 1/2)

Q: How did you pay for it?

TRANSACTION PAYMENT METHOD



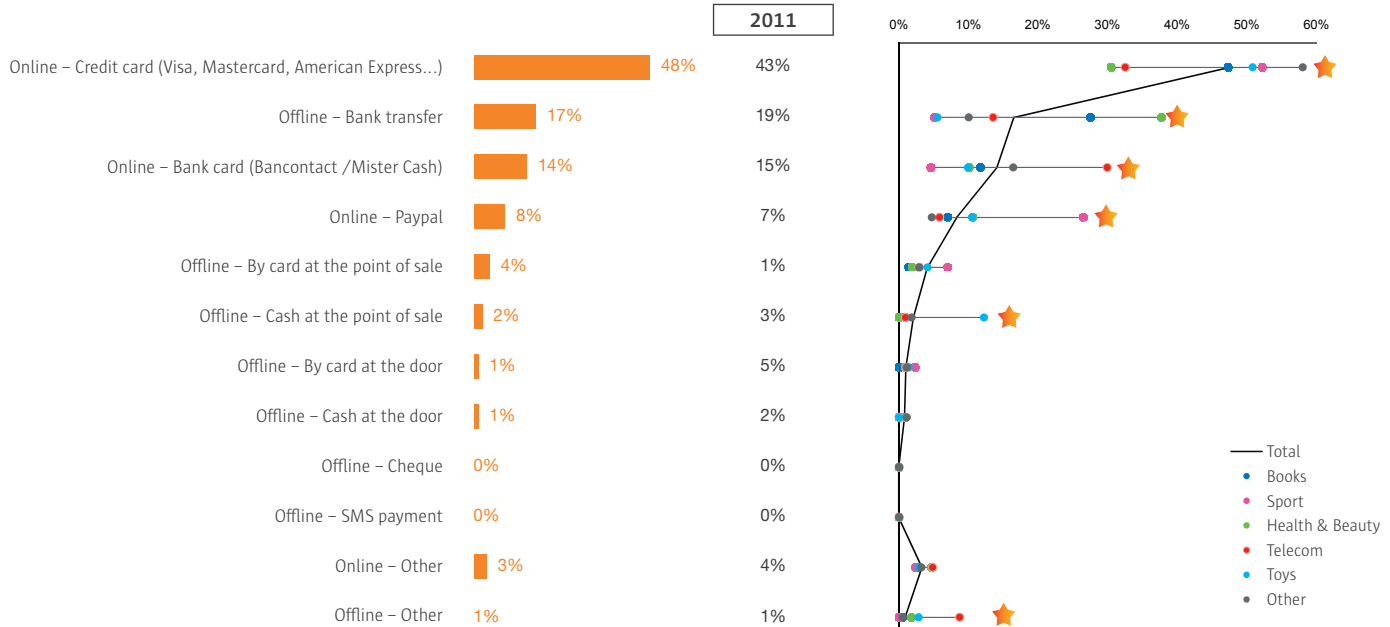
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Sector focus

Payment method (sector details 2/2)

Q: How did you pay for it?

TRANSACTION PAYMENT METHOD



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Sector focus

Delivery (conclusions)

3 out of 5 online shoppers prefer **home delivery**. However, shoppers are not willing to pay more in return for flexible delivery timings.



Do-it-yourself online shoppers perceive delivery timings between **9am and 6pm** as acceptable. They are willing to **pay more than €4 for home delivery** of their purchase.



For fashion products delivery preference goes to, besides home delivery, **pick-up at pick-up point**.



There is a high preference for **home delivery** when buying entertainment products online. Shoppers within this sector are **not willing to pay more than €7,5**.



Online food shoppers prefer **picking up** their online ordered goods **in the store**. Home delivery is less desired. Shoppers have a high **willingness to pay more in return for flexible pick-up hours**.



Home delivery is most appreciated for purchases within the interior sector. Shoppers are **willing to pay more than €10** for the delivery of their online purchased goods.



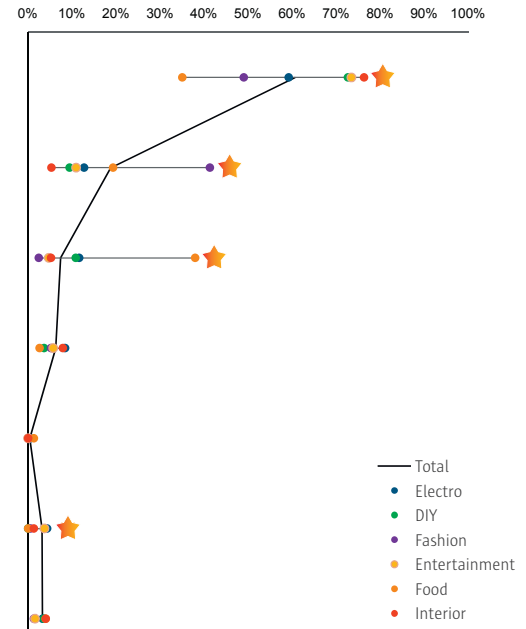
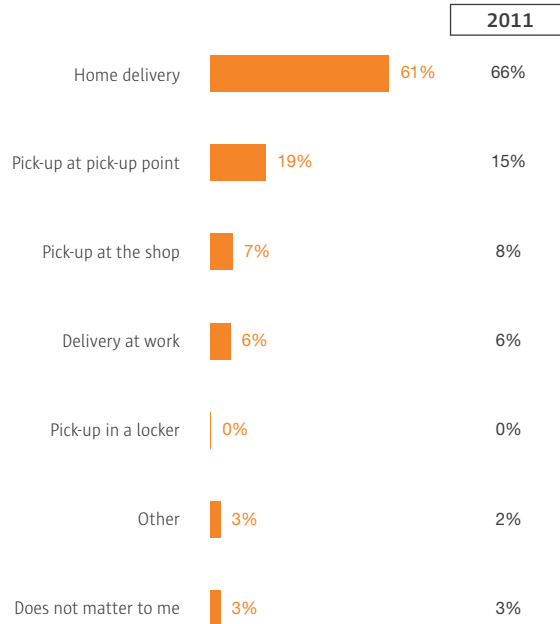
Home delivery is desired when buying books online. The need for flexible delivery times are less present.

Sector focus

Delivery preference (sector details 1/2)

Q: How do you prefer your online purchases 'product sector' to be delivered?

DELIVERY PREFERENCE



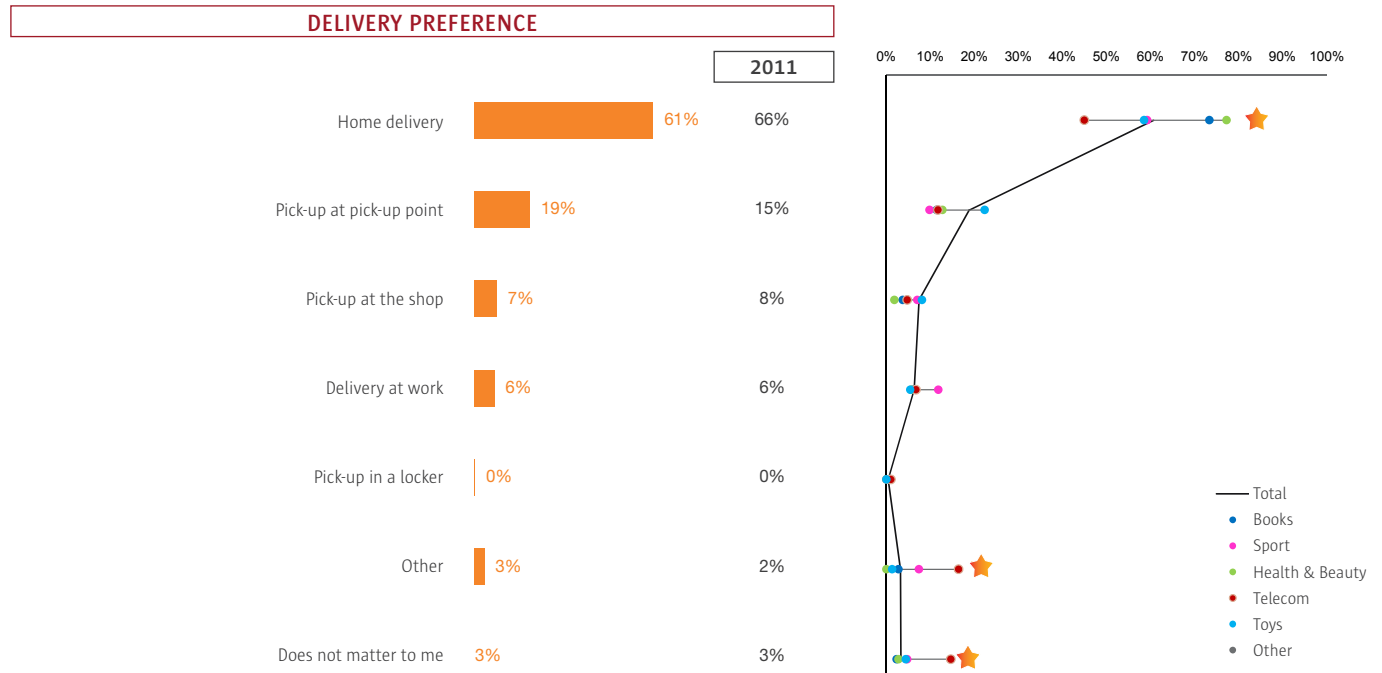
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Sector focus

Delivery preference (sector details 2/2)

Q: How do you prefer your online purchases 'product sector' to be delivered?



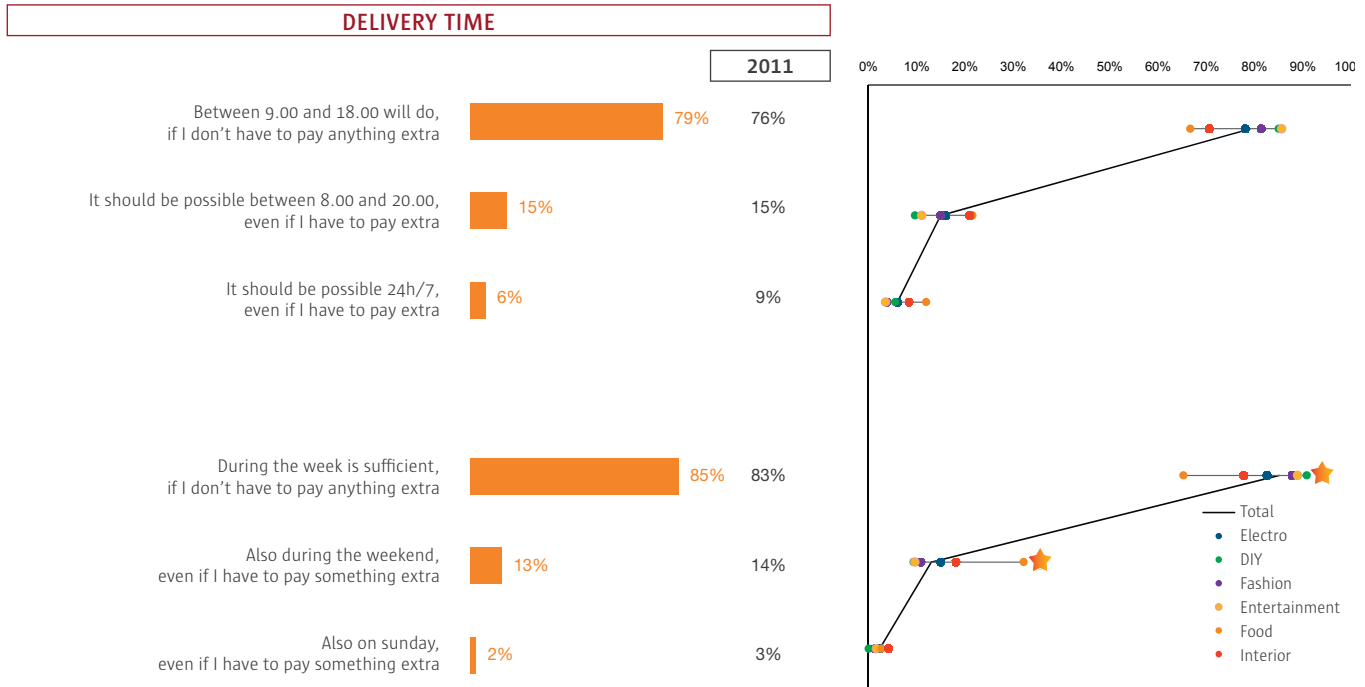
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★ Sign. higher than min. 1 other sector (95%)

Sector focus

Delivery time (sector details 1/2)

Q: When should it be possible to have 'product' delivered?

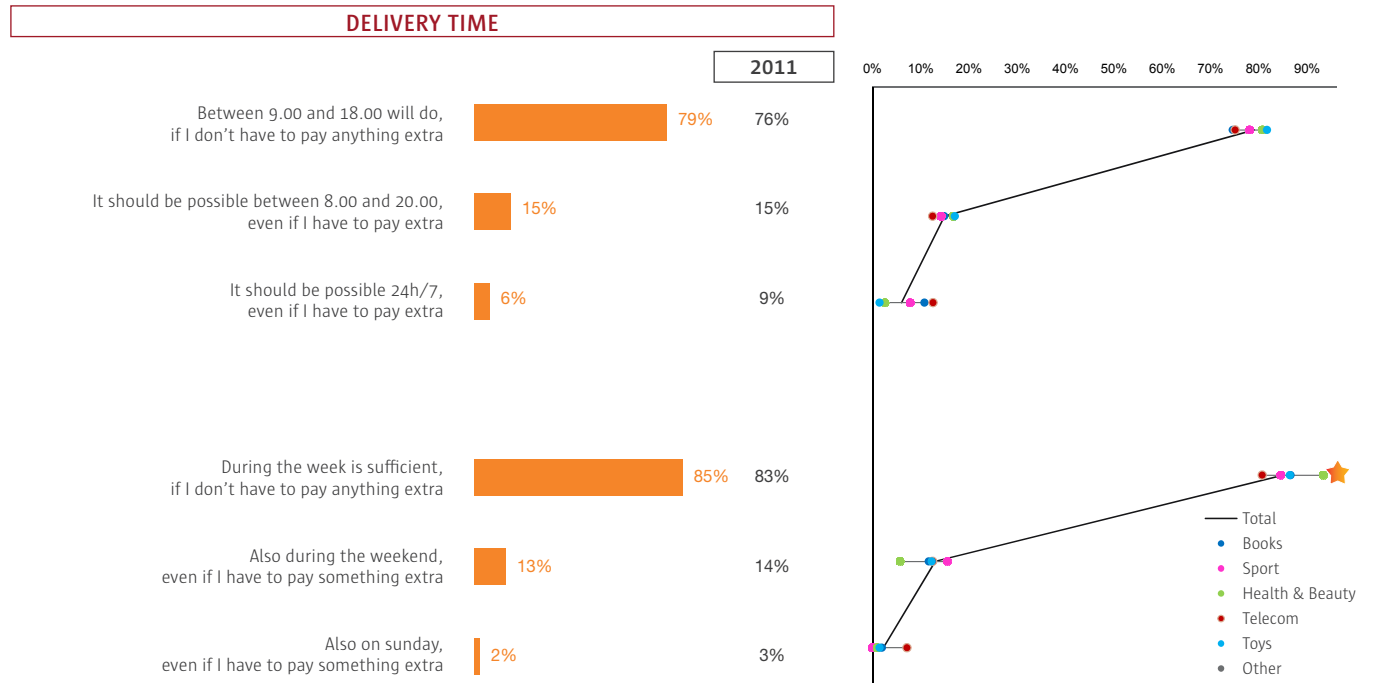


N(Electro) = 396, N(DIY) = 54, N(Fashion) = 377 N(Entertainment) = 317; N(Food) = 76; N(Interior) = 74 / F = Bought product before

Sector focus

Delivery time (sector details 2/2)

Q: When should it be possible to have 'product' delivered?



N(Telecom) = 103, N(Sport) = 71, N(Health & Beauty) = 106; N(Books) = 214; N(Toys) = 71; N(Other) = 555 / F = Bought product before

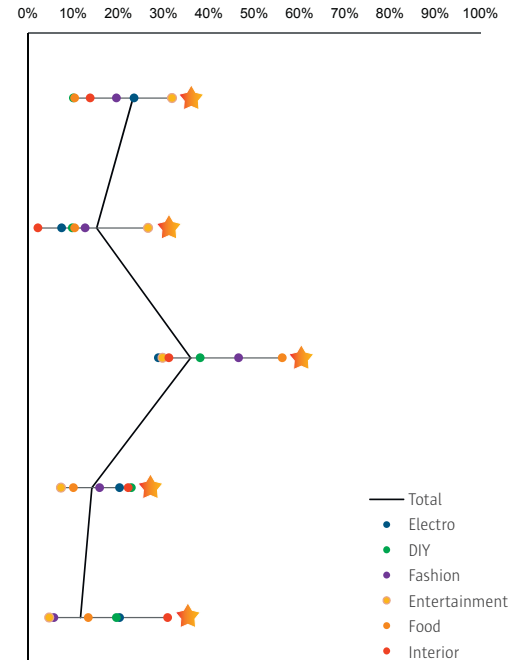
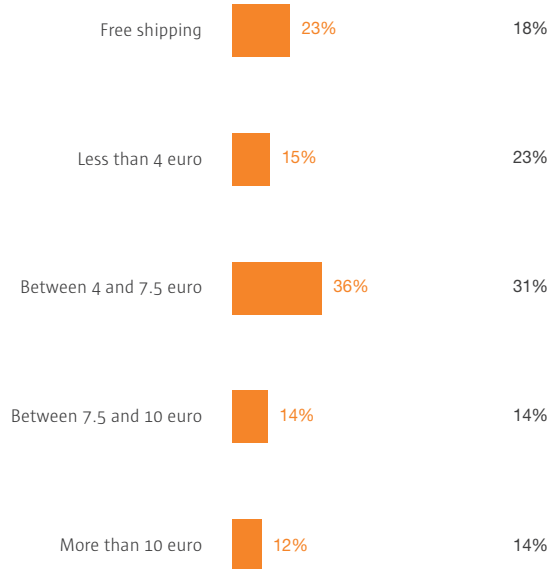
Sector focus

Delivery price (sector details 1/2)

Q: How much are you willing to pay for the delivery of the 'product' you buy online?

COST OF DELIVERY

2011



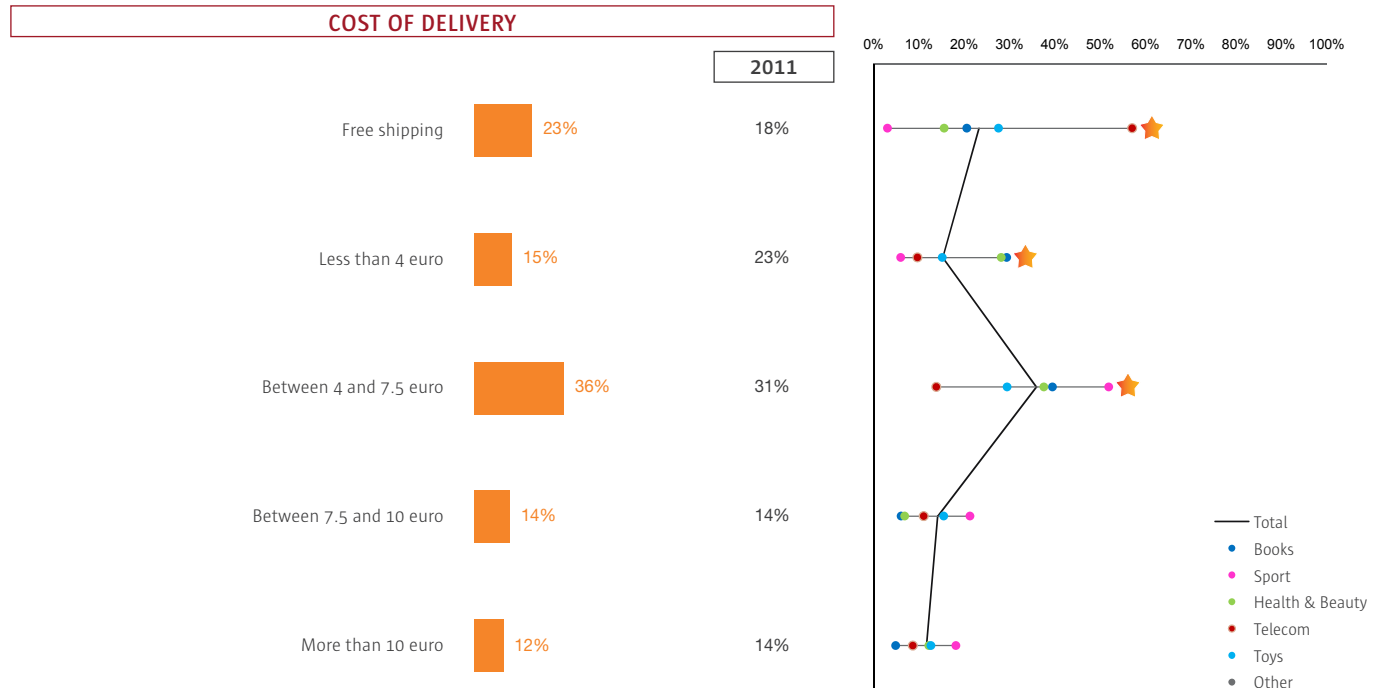
N(Electro) = 396, N(DIY) = 54, N(Fashion) = 377 N(Entertainment) = 317; N(Food) = 76; N(Interior) = 74 / F = Bought product before

★ Sign. higher than min. 1 other sector (95%)

Sector focus

Delivery price (sector details 2/2)

Q: How much are you willing to pay for the delivery of the 'product' you buy online?




N(Telecom) = 103, N(Sport) = 71, N(Health & Beauty) = 106; N(Books) = 214; N(Toys) = 71; N(Other) = 555 / F = Bought product before



E-commerce trust & attitude





47% of online shoppers **prefers Belgian** to foreign websites.

Shoppers **trust** e-commerce activities more than they did in the past, which results in an **increase in the amount and the variety of products bought online.**

Barriers towards online payment with a credit card and purchase on unknown websites are **less present.**

E-commerce trust

Q: To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Top 2 scores)

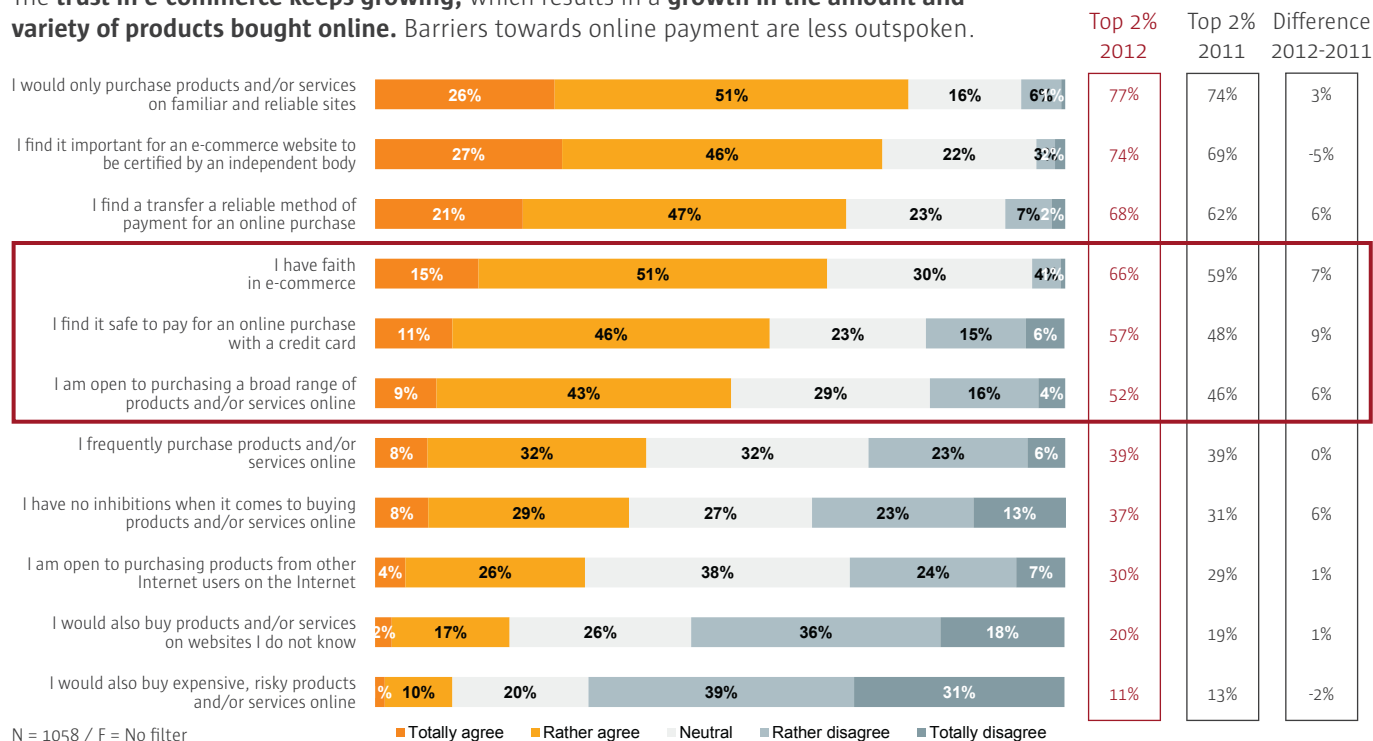


In general, online shoppers are rather reserved when it comes to buying products from other internet users or on unknown websites.

E-commerce trust (detail)

Q: To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Top 2 scores)

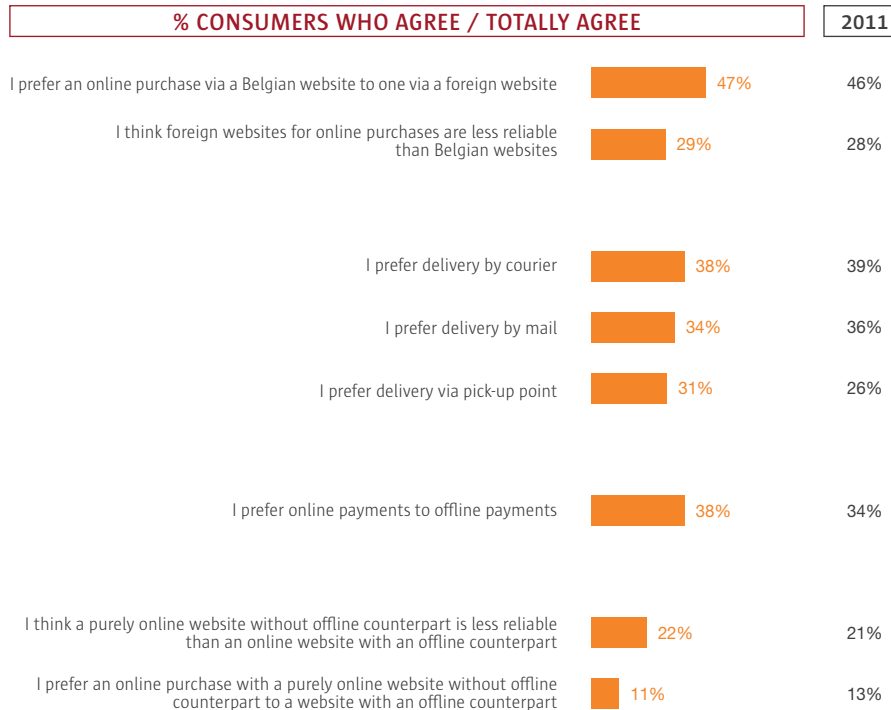
The **trust in e-commerce keeps growing**, which results in a **growth in the amount and variety of products bought online**. Barriers towards online payment are less outspoken.



N = 1058 / F = No filter

E-commerce attitude

Q: To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Top 2 scores)

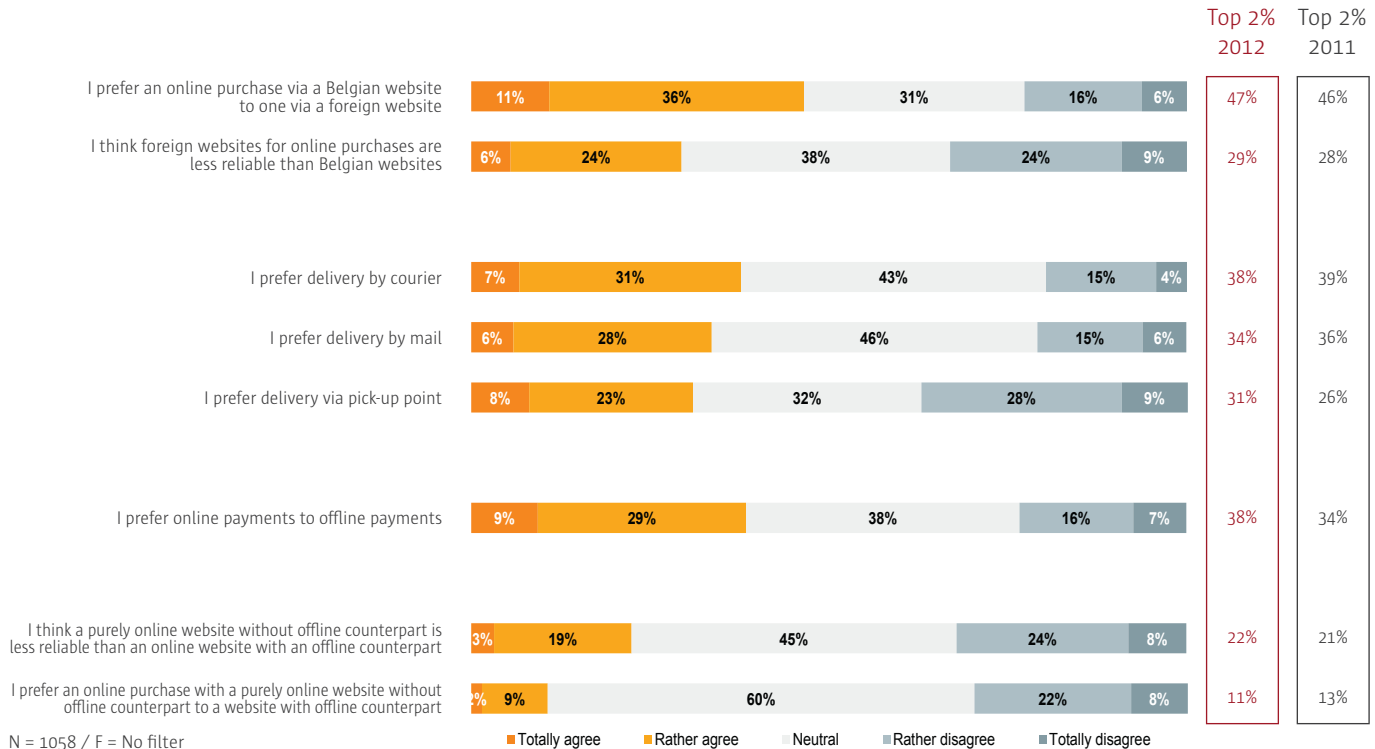


1 in 2 online shoppers has a preference for Belgian websites, 30% perceives foreign websites as less reliable.

78% believes an offline shop increases website reliability.

E-commerce attitude (detail)


Q: To what extent do you agree with the following statements? (Top 2 scores)





Internet fraud





4% has experienced some kind of **deception** during online shopping.

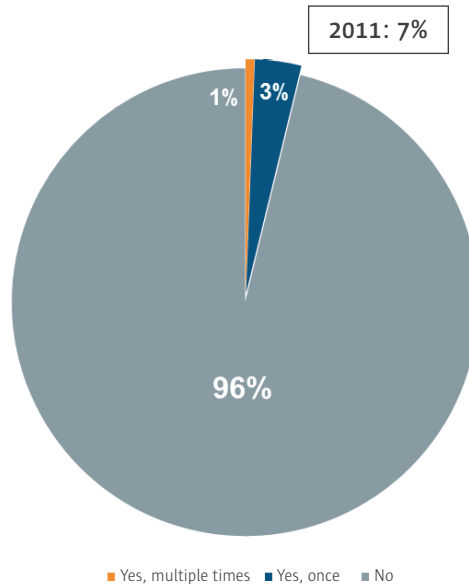
In **half of those cases**, deception was caused by **payment issues**.

29% of fraud manifestations stay **unsolved**.

Internet fraud

Exposure

Q: Have you been confronted with Internet fraud related with your purchase of new products or services on the Internet in the past 12 months?



The occurrence of Internet fraud is very limited.

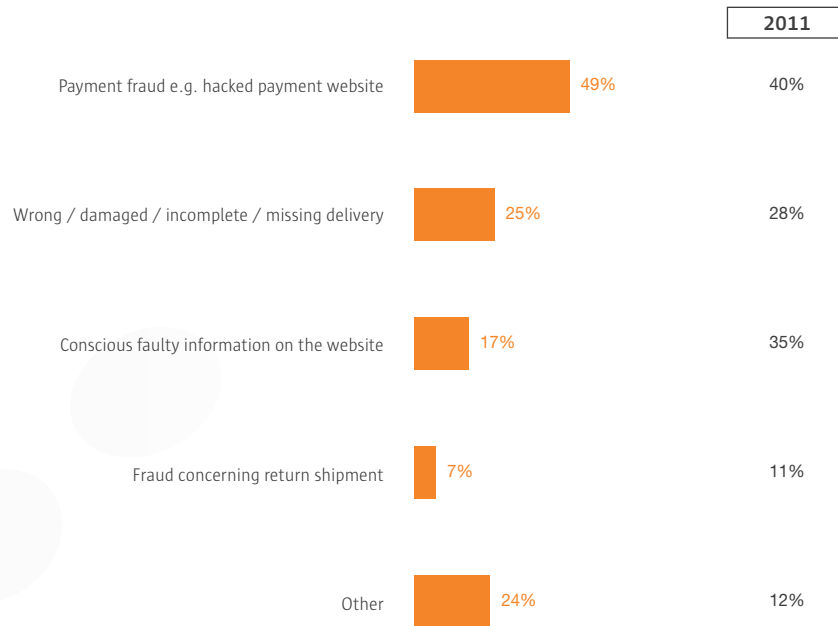
Only 4% has been confronted with fraud related to their purchase in the past 12 months.

Internet fraud

Type of fraud

Q: What is the best description of this internet fraud?

In 50% of the cases,
the internet fraud is
payment related.

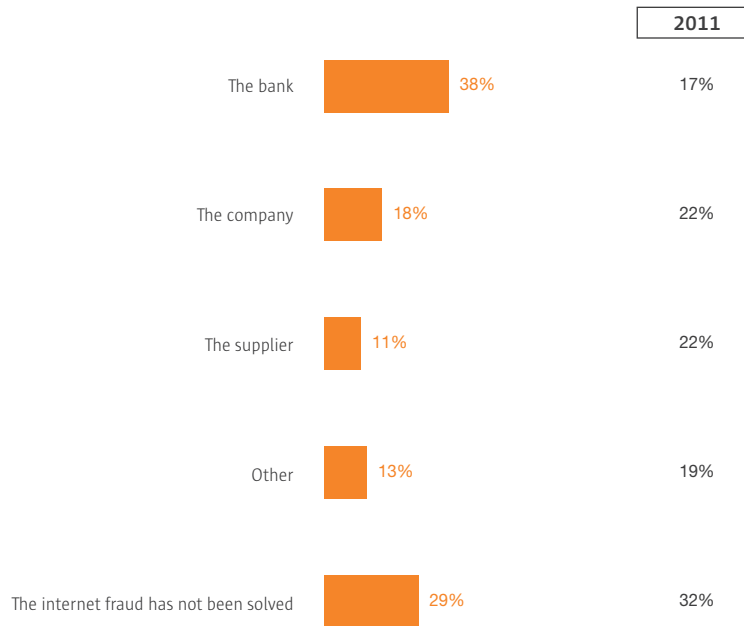


★ Sign. different (95%)

Internet fraud

Solving the fraud

Q: Who solved this internet fraud?



The majority of internet fraud cases are handled and solved by the bank. However, in 29% of the cases it remains unsolved.

★ Sign. different (95%)

The background features a solid green field with several overlapping, organic, blob-like shapes in a lighter yellow-green hue. These shapes are scattered across the frame, with some appearing more prominent than others. The overall aesthetic is modern and minimalist.

E-commerce trends

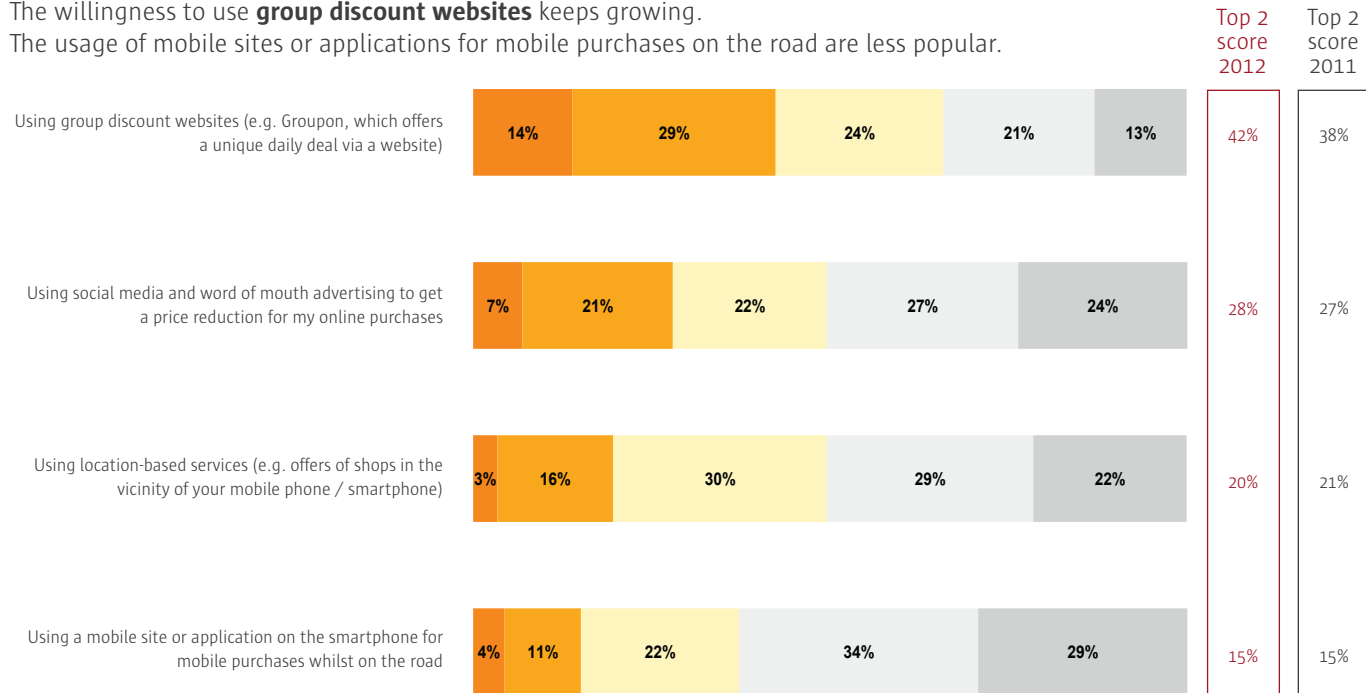


E-commerce trends

Q: To what extent are you willing to use the following new technologies in the coming 12 months?

The willingness to use **group discount websites** keeps growing.

The usage of mobile sites or applications for mobile purchases on the road are less popular.



N = 1058 / F = No filter

■ Totally willing to
 ■ Rather willing to
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Rather not willing to
 ■ Not at all willing to



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