MENSWEAR – UK – 2024

High rates of obesity among men mean improving menswear sizing and fit is key to driving sales, with help from new online size recommendation tools.



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Menswear – UK – 2024

This report looks at the following areas:

- The short-, medium- and long-term impact of the cost-of-living crisis on menswear purchasing
- What clothes sizes men buy and attitudes to sizing and fit when shopping
- How retailers can drive more frequent shopping and interest in online fit technology and the use of Al for recommendations
- Men's changing clothes shopping behaviours including the rise of resale, interest in quiet luxury and interest in sports collaborations



High rates of obesity among men mean improving menswear sizing and fit is key to driving sales, with help from new online size recommendation tools.

Overview

The cost of living crisis has led to caution around spending and while men have adopted some savvy shopping behaviours, the market has been more resilient than womenswear. While men bought fewer items in the first quarter of 2024, they spent more per shopping trip, particularly young men aged 16-34 who are keen fashion buyers. As men are more optimistic about their finances in the next 12 months than women, this will help drive sales of men's clothing.

An ageing population is a threat to the market as older men are low purchasers of clothes. As men aged 55+ are more likely to be obese, there is a gap in the market for more engaging menswear options for extended sizing aimed at this older demographic.

Major sporting events such as the Summer Olympics 2024 to be held in Paris and the UEFA Euro 2024 tournament in Germany present big opportunities for men's fashion and sport's brands.

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Report Content

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Opportunities for the Menswear market

- · Collaborations promoting upcoming sports events
- Wider range of trend-led products in extended sizes
- · Using technology to improve fit

Market dynamics and outlook

- · The five-year outlook for Menswear
- Consumer spending on menswear to rise 4.1% by 2024
- · Clothing inflation remains high, but falls for menswear
 - Graph 1: overall CPIH, garment CPIH and garment by gender CPIH, 2023-24
- · Men more likely to be obese than women
 - Graph 2: prevalence of overweight and obesity, by gender, by age group, 2021

What consumers want and why

- Store visits regain popularity
 - Graph 3: how men bought clothing in the last 12 months, 2020-24
- · Online-only retailers favourite place to shop
 - Graph 4: types of retailers where men bought clothing in the last 12 months, 2024
- · Large is the most popular clothing size
 - Graph 5: clothing sizes men typically buy, 2024
- · Men significantly more likely to feel good in clothes they buy than women
 - Graph 6: attitudes to sizing and fit, 2024
- More size consistency would encourage 37% to shop more frequently
 - Graph 7: solutions to help drive more-frequent shopping, 2024
- Using Al to help with sizing
- · Half of men bought fewer, higher-quality clothes
 - Graph 8: current and future shopping behaviours, 2023

Retailer activity

- M&S launches its first dedicated menswear campaign in eight years
- M&S rates high in trust and differentiation

MARKET DYNAMICS

Market size

- Consumer spending on menswear grows 3.9% in 2023 to £15.6 billion
 - Graph 9: consumer spending on menswear, 2018-23

Market forecast

- Consumer spending on menswear to rise 4.1% by 2024
- · Consumer spending will normalise
- · Value retailers main beneficiaries of the last income squeeze
 - Graph 10: consumer spending on clothing and accessories, 2009-14

Macro-economic factors

- Clothing inflation remains high, but falls for menswear
 - Graph 11: overall CPIH, garment CPIH and garment by gender CPIH % change, 2023-24
- · Men are prioritising adding to their savings
 - Graph 12: consumer behaviours in the last three months and planned to do over the next three months, 2024
- An ageing population is a threat for menswear
 - Graph 13: projected population levels, by age group, 2023-2033
- Older men most financially secure
 - Graph 14: current financial situation, by gender and age, 2024
- Men less impacted by price rises than women...
 - Graph 15: consumer impact of issues over the last two months, by gender, 2024
- ...and more positive about the impact on their financial situation
 - Graph 16: impact of interest rates on financial situation over the next year, by gender, 2024
 - Graph 17: impact of price factor on financial situation over the next year, by gender, 2024
- Men more likely to be obese than women
 - Graph 18: prevalence of overweight and obesity, by gender, by age group, 2021

WHAT CONSUMERS WANT AND WHY

What they buy

- Young men drive purchasing in Q1 2024
 - Graph 19: fashion items men have purchased in the last three months, 2024
- Sportswear remains popular
 - Graph 20: clothing items men have purchased in the last three months, 2024
- · Men spent more than women per shopping trip
 - Graph 21: amount spent on clothing items on last shopping trip, by gender, 2024

- Men bought fewer items
 - Graph 22: number of clothing items purchased on last shopping trip, by gender

Who buys?

- · Gen Zs and Younger Millennials drive purchasing
 - Graph 23: who buys clothes, by generations, 2024
- · Highest earners most likely to buy
 - Graph 24: who buys clothes, by household income, 2024

How they shop

- · Men combine in-store and online
 - Graph 25: how men bought clothing in the last 12 months, 2024
- Store visits regain popularity
 - Graph 26: how men bought clothing in the last 12 months, 2020-24
- Gen Zs keen in-store shoppers
 - Graph 27: how men have bought clothes in the last 12 months, by generation, 2024
- Under-35s use smartphones to shop in-store
 - Graph 28: how men bought clothing by age group, 2024

Where they shop

- · Online-only retailers favourite place to shop
 - Graph 29: types of retailers where men bought clothing in the last 12 months, 2024
- Over a third buy from value retailers and supermarkets
 - Graph 30: types of retailers where men bought clothing in the last 12 months, 2020-24
- Gen Zs are keen sports store shoppers
 - Graph 31: types of retailers where men have bought clothing in the last 12 months, by generation, 2024
- · Sports stores can drive loyalty through sense of community
- Close to 25% of high earners buy from higher-priced fashion stores
 - Graph 32: where men have bought clothing in the last 12 months, by household income, 2024
- Driving sales at independent menswear retailers

Clothing sizes purchased

- · Large is the most popular clothing size
 - Graph 33: clothing sizes men typically buy, 2024
- Only 13% are plus-size shoppers
 - Graph 34: clothing sizes men typically buy, 2024
- Plus-size shoppers peak among men aged 55+
- Plus-size shoppers opt to buy clothes from pureplays

Attitudes to sizing and fit

- · Men are significantly more likely to feel good in clothes they buy than women
 - Graph 35: attitudes to sizing and fit, 2024
- · Using fashion to elevate mood
- · Younger men more likely than older men to feel low when clothes don't fit
- · Younger Millennials most impacted by low self-esteem
- · Young men look for clothes designed to flatter their bodies
 - Graph 36: attitudes to sizing, by generations, 2024
- 16-34s twice as likely as average to shop at specialist plus-size/tall retailers
- · Higher earners shop less online as they want to try on clothes
 - Graph 37: attitudes to sizing, by household income, 2024

Driving more-frequent shopping

- More size consistency would encourage 37% to shop more frequently
 - Graph 38: solutions to help drive more-frequent shopping, 2024
- · Helping larger-sized consumers with more-consistent sizes
- Half of Younger Millennials want better in-store availability of all clothing sizes
 - Graph 39: men's agreement that better in-store availability of all clothing sizes would encourage them to shop more frequently, by generations, 2024
- · Online sizing tools are key to driving shopping frequency
- Men aged 16-34 most drawn to using virtual try-on
- · Using AI to help with sizing
- Moss Bros trials Al try-on technology
- · Images that normalise all body types

Clothes shopping behaviours

- · Half of men bought fewer higher-quality clothes
 - Graph 40: clothes shopping behaviours, 2024
- · Young Millennials push behind quiet luxury trend
 - Graph 41: male consumers who have bought fewer, but better-quality clothes in the last 12 months, by generation, 2024
- The 'quiet luxury' trend
- Even affluent men wait for discounts
 - Graph 42: consumers who waited to buy clothes until they were discounted, by household income, 2024
- The ongoing popularity of sports fashion
 - Graph 43: consumers who have bought sports clothing from a fashion retailer, by generation, 2024
- Men adopt more-sustainable shopping behaviours
 - Graph 44: male consumers who have bought and sold second-hand clothes in the last 12 months, by age group, 2024

RETAILER ACTIVITY

Launch activity and innovation

- · Mid-market retailers add premium collections
- Supermarkets add more-exclusive ranges
- · Fashion retailers expand sports collections
- · Promoting male body positivity and diversity
- · Social media focuses on body positivity among men
- · Interesting collaborations

Advertising and marketing activity

- Menswear advertising spend increases in 2023
 - Graph 45: total above-the-line, online display and direct mail advertising expenditure on men's fashion, 2020-23
- M&S doubled its adspend on menswear in 2023
- M&S launches its first dedicated menswear campaign in eight years
- Digital ad spend increases, while outdoor spend decreases
 - Graph 46: total above-the-line, online display and direct mail advertising expenditure on menswear, by media type, 2020-23
- · Jacamo promotes the 'everyday man' for its 'No Average Jack' campaign
- Hugo Boss uses holograms to promote campaign
- · SPOKE highlights the importance of great fit through its 'Ridiculously well fit' campaign

BRAND RESEARCH

- M&S stands out as the most-used brand...
- M&S rates high in trust and differentiation
- · Primark offers good value and is the most accessible
 - Graph 47: attitudes towards selected brands, 2024
- Uniqlo is seen as fun
 - Graph 48: brand personality macro image of selected brands, 2024
- M&S is reliable but expensive; Lucy & Yak is cutting edge

APPENDIX

Market forecast data and methodology

- Market forecast and prediction intervals (value)
- Forecast methodology

Report scope and definitions

- Market definition
- Abbreviations and terms

Methodology

- Consumer research methodology
- Nielsen Ad Intel coverage
- Infegy Atlas

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