

E-commerce Belgium 2018



comeos



InSics Consulting

Introduction



For the first time in four years we are seeing an increase in e-commerce penetration. Online spending per person is also on the rise and m-commerce has finally reached critical mass in Belgium.

Showrooming and webrooming are occurring more frequently. An integrated omni-channel approach is a must!

Dominique Michel
CEO Comeos

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OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

Objectives & Methodology

Background

Comeos represents **Belgian commerce & services**. Its members are active in 18 sectors and sell to companies or straight to the end-user. Together they represent 11,2% of gdp and employ 400.000 people, which makes them the biggest employer in the private sector. Comeos provides tailor-made services to its members and seeks to serve as a knowledge- and networking-platform to stimulate trade dynamics

Marketing objectives

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

Research questions

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

Method

Method: Online survey

Recruitment: Online research panel

Fieldwork period: 23rd March – 5th April 2018

Interview length: 20 minutes

Country: Belgium

Sample

n = 2014

Sample size was increased from 1500 to 2000 in order to increase the sample size per category. Each person saw up to 3 subcategories

Sample screening

Age: 15-70

Online purchases experience in last 12 months (both products / services)

Sample quota

Representative for Belgian population on gender, age, and region

Used symbols

★ Sign. Different from at least one other target group (95% confidence level)

▲▼ Meaningful difference compared with total

Error margin

n=100	10%	n=600	4%	n=1000	3%
n=400	5%	n=800	3%	n=1500	1%

Notes

Period of field April and sample composition are identical over the past years to optimize comparability.

In the report we refer to 'gross' sample. This sample is national representative (age, gender, region) for 15-70 yo, **before** screening on online purchases. This sample is only used to calculate penetration, and mentioned explicitly on the slide. The core of the report is the 'net sample', meaning the filter 'purchases online' is applied (not mentioned explicitly on the slide).

Since 2011 we measure e-commerce trends within Belgium. Given the strong growth of the sector, the questionnaire has been actualized over the years, while respecting the structure to safeguard comparability.

Broadening scope: in 2017 we detailed 72 subcategories (instead of 20), and included 'pralines' as our 15th main category. In 2018 we have included 4 new subcategories (see next slides)

Keep core structure, add relevant questions (e.g. offline penetration vs online penetration, adding statements) and remove old ones (e.g. impact on offline experience, etc.)

In 2017, the target group widened: as from 15yo instead of 18 yo.

If a change in questionnaire had a noticeable impact on the results, it's explicitly mentioned in the report.



KEY FINDINGS

Key findings

First increase of e-commerce penetration in 4y, 74% to 76%

Gradual change: *believers spend more and buy more frequently*

- Monthly purchases increase for the 8th year in a row, to 44%
- Spending behavior increases, with 6 out of 10 (+10%) spending at least € 100 the last month
- Self-declared spending behavior increases (37% to 39%)

Structural change: *non-believers find their way to webshops*

- Lack of trust in e-commerce is decreasing for the 8th year in a row
- Interest of laggards increases a lot (23% to 36%)

M-commerce reached the critical mass:

- Strong increase of m-commerce penetration, 22% to 35%
- Strong increase in future intention, 41% to 51%

Key findings

Growth noticeable among smaller categories:

- 'animals' and 'home' (penetration + frequency)
- 'food' (penetration)
- 'transportation', 'pralines' and 'DIY & garden' (frequency)

Context of purchase remains unchanged:

- Convenience remains biggest driver of buying online (vs offline), price biggest driver of choosing a particular webshop over other webshops
- People order in the evening, get their package delivered between 09:00 and 17:00, dominantly during the week and at home

Eye-catchers:

- The Bancontact app makes a difference (1 out of 10 purchases is done via the app)
- Webrooming and showrooming occur more frequently (strong, steady increase over the years), showing importance of cross channel in practice
- 1 out of 2 finds it normal to be helped by bots and virtual assistants.



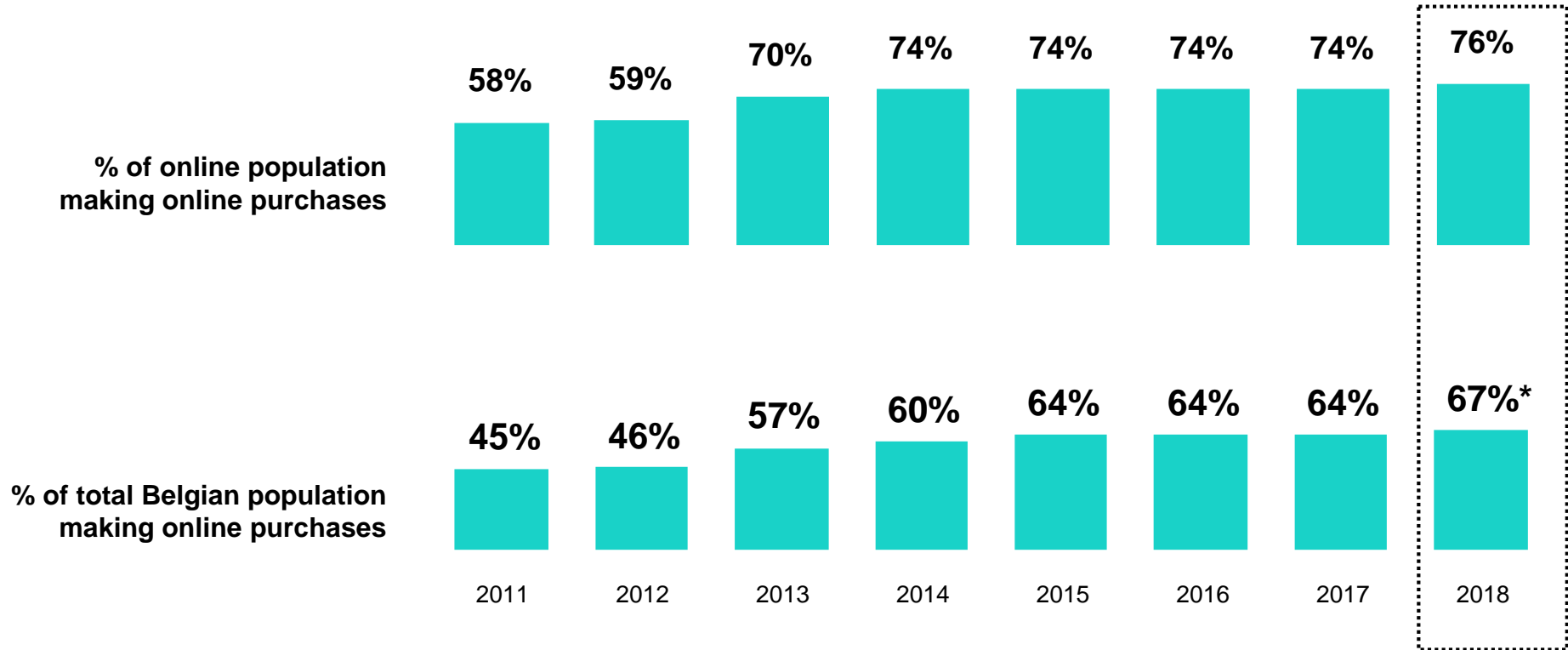
E-COMMERCE EXPERIENCE

E-commerce experience

Penetration last year

Q: Did you buy new - non-secondhand - products or services via the Internet in the past 12 months?

First increase in 4 years



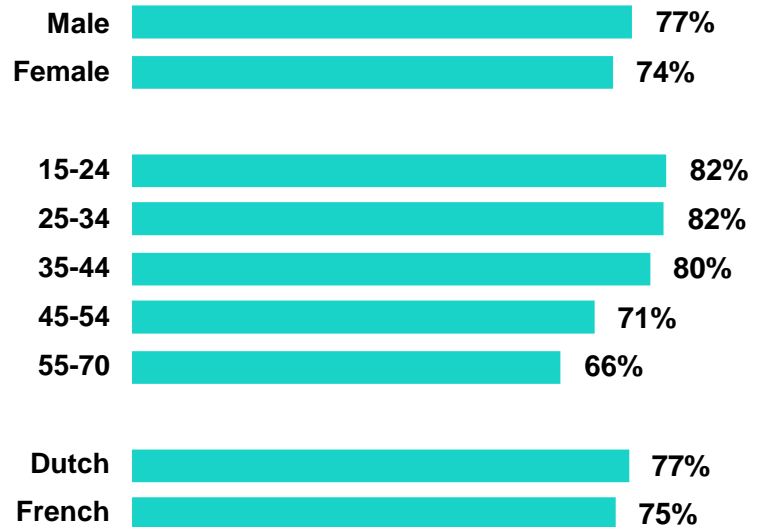
*Extrapolated to the Belgian population regarding the current internet-population (87,4% in 2015 based on estimate for July 1, 2016 - <http://www.internetlivestats.com>)

E-commerce experience

Penetration profile

Gender, age, income ... makes no difference.
Everybody buys online!

% of consumers bought via Internet in the past 12 months



Household's net monthly income

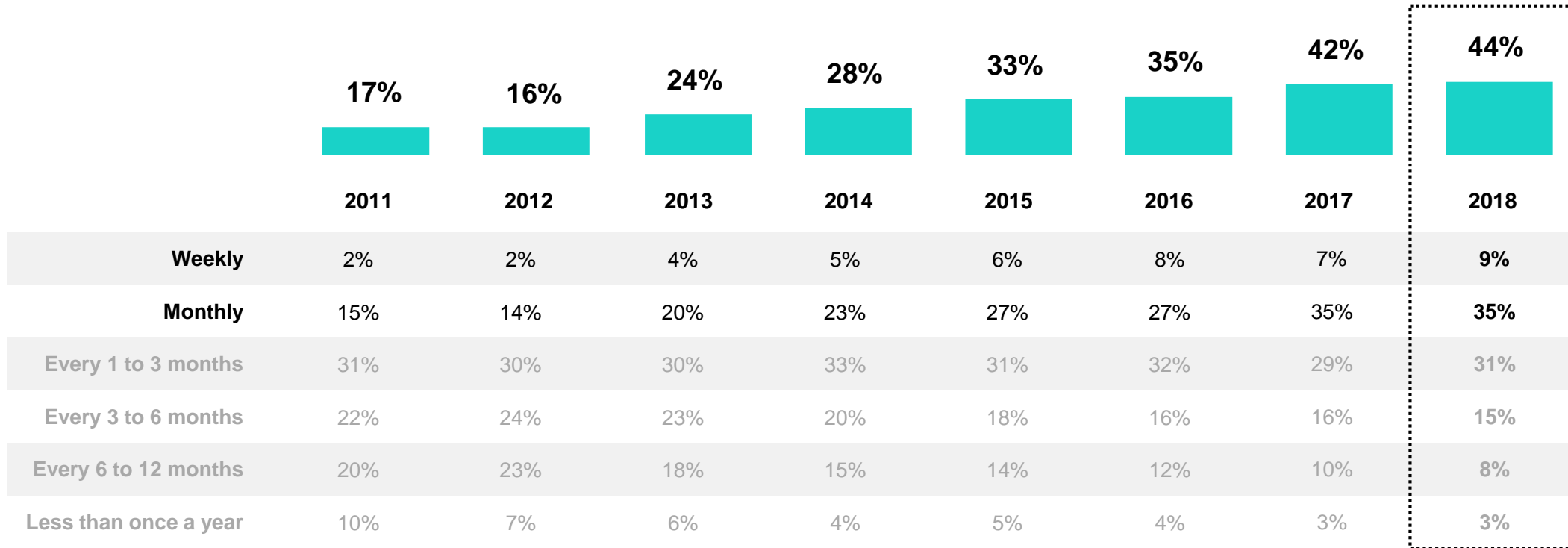


E-commerce experience

At least monthly purchases

Higher increase for weekly purchases

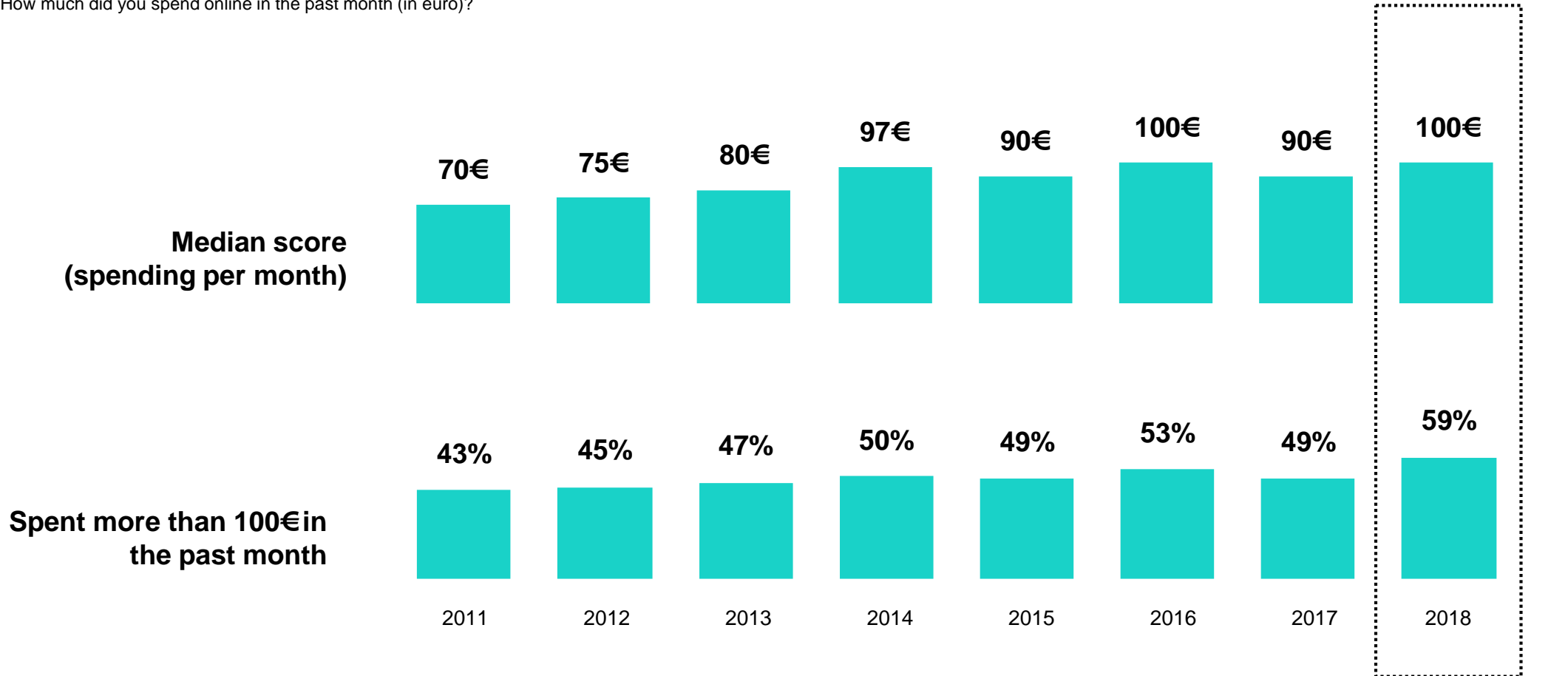
Q: How frequently do you buy something via the Internet?



E-commerce experience

Current online shopping behavior

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

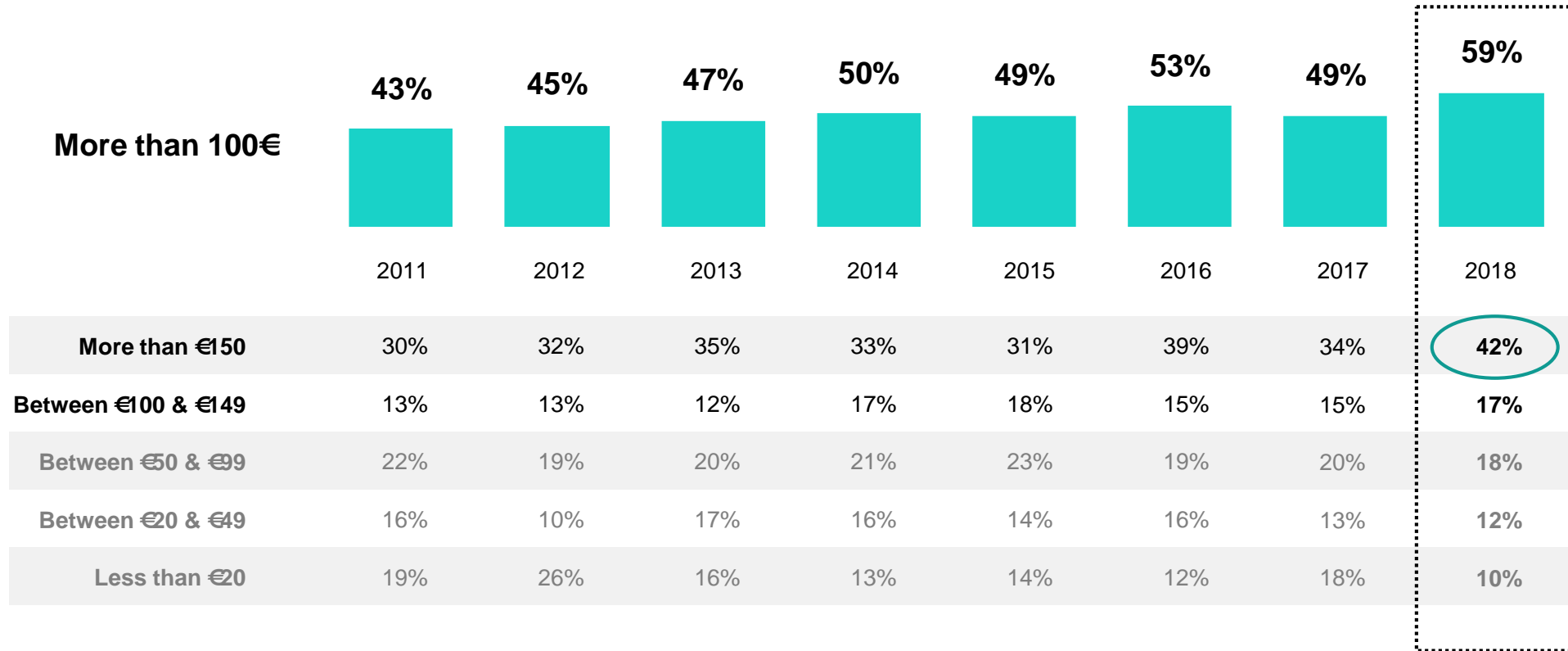


E-commerce experience

Current online shopping behavior

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

> 150€ is a normal monthly budget for almost 1 out of 2

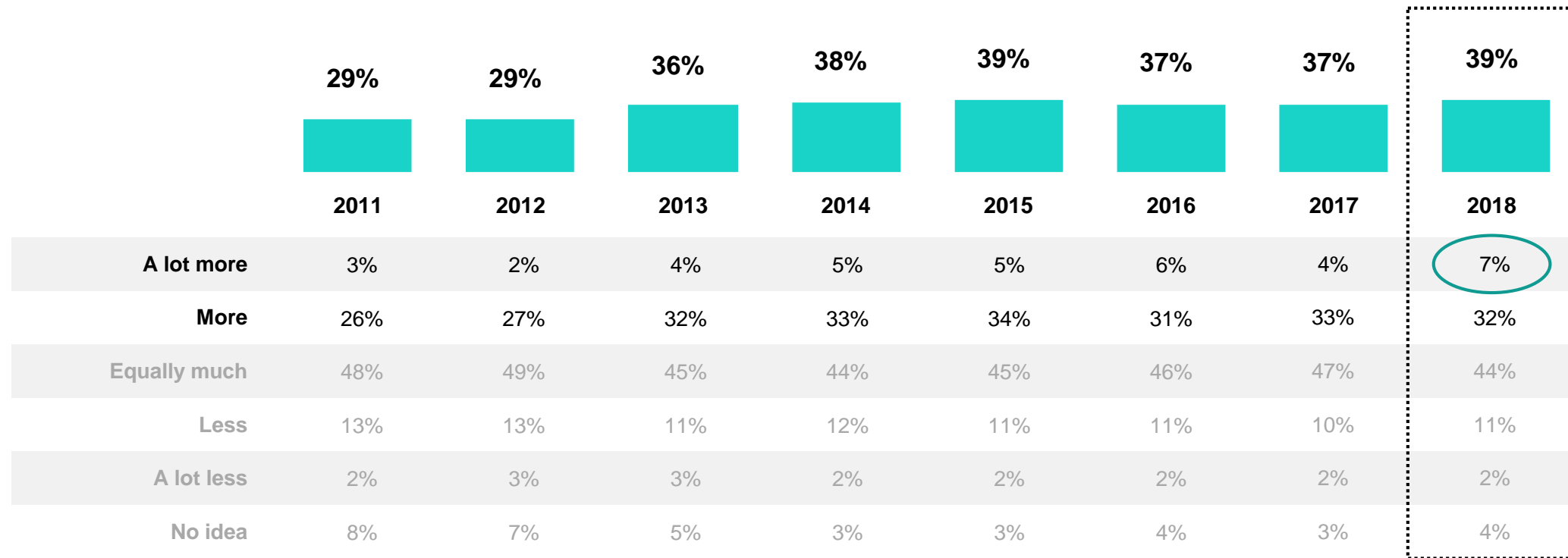


E-commerce experience

Evolution budget – spend more

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

Self-declared spending behavior increases

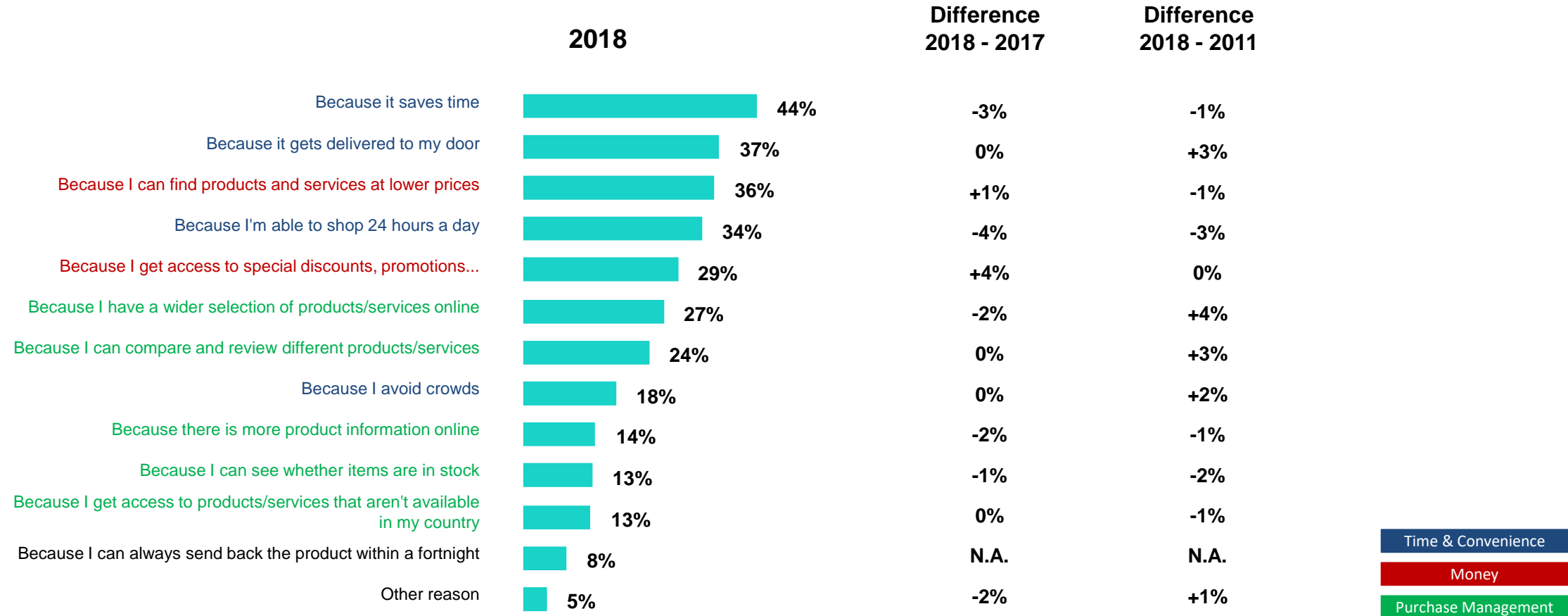


E-commerce experience

Drivers for E-commerce

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

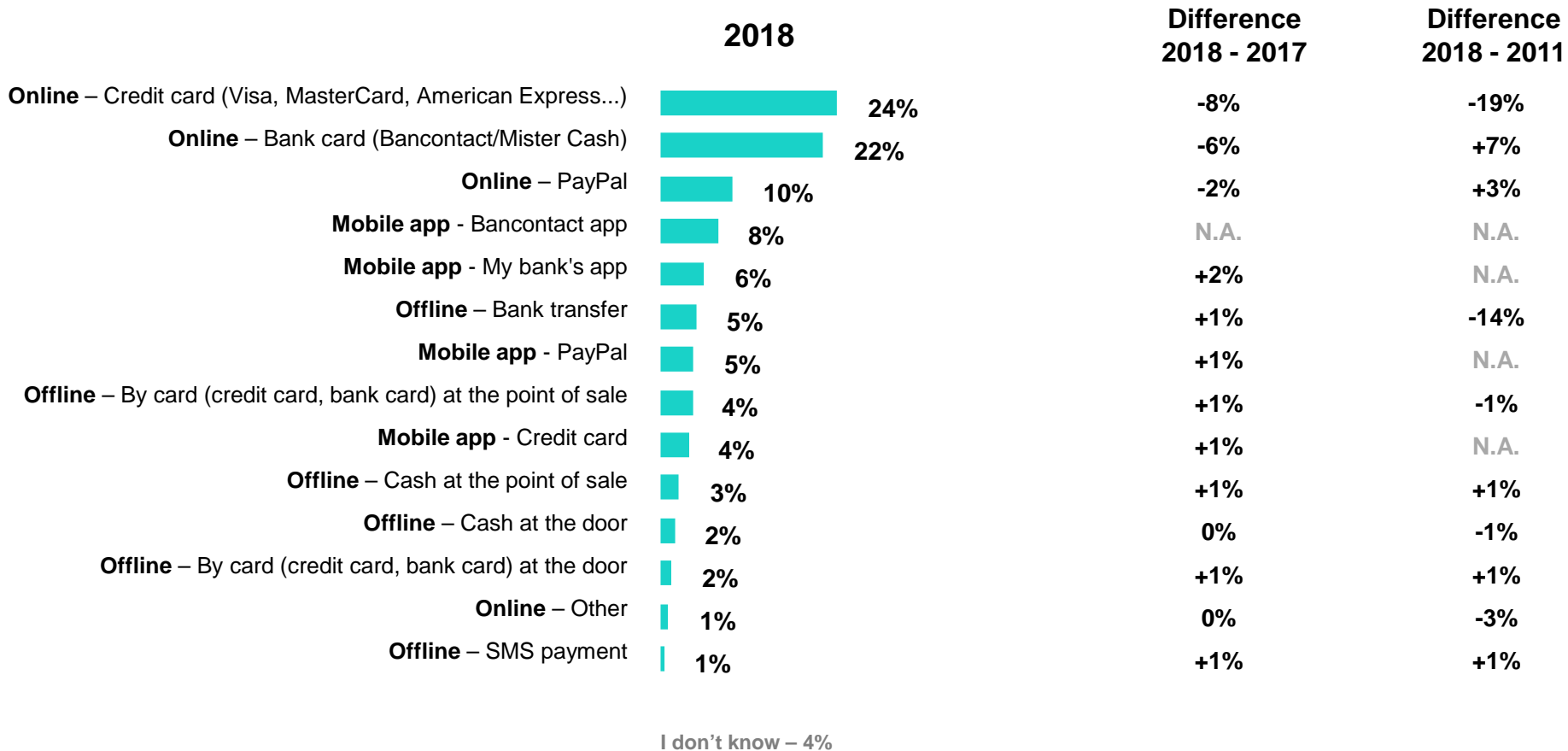
Time & convenience remain the main drivers



E-commerce experience

Ways of payments

Q: How did you pay for it?



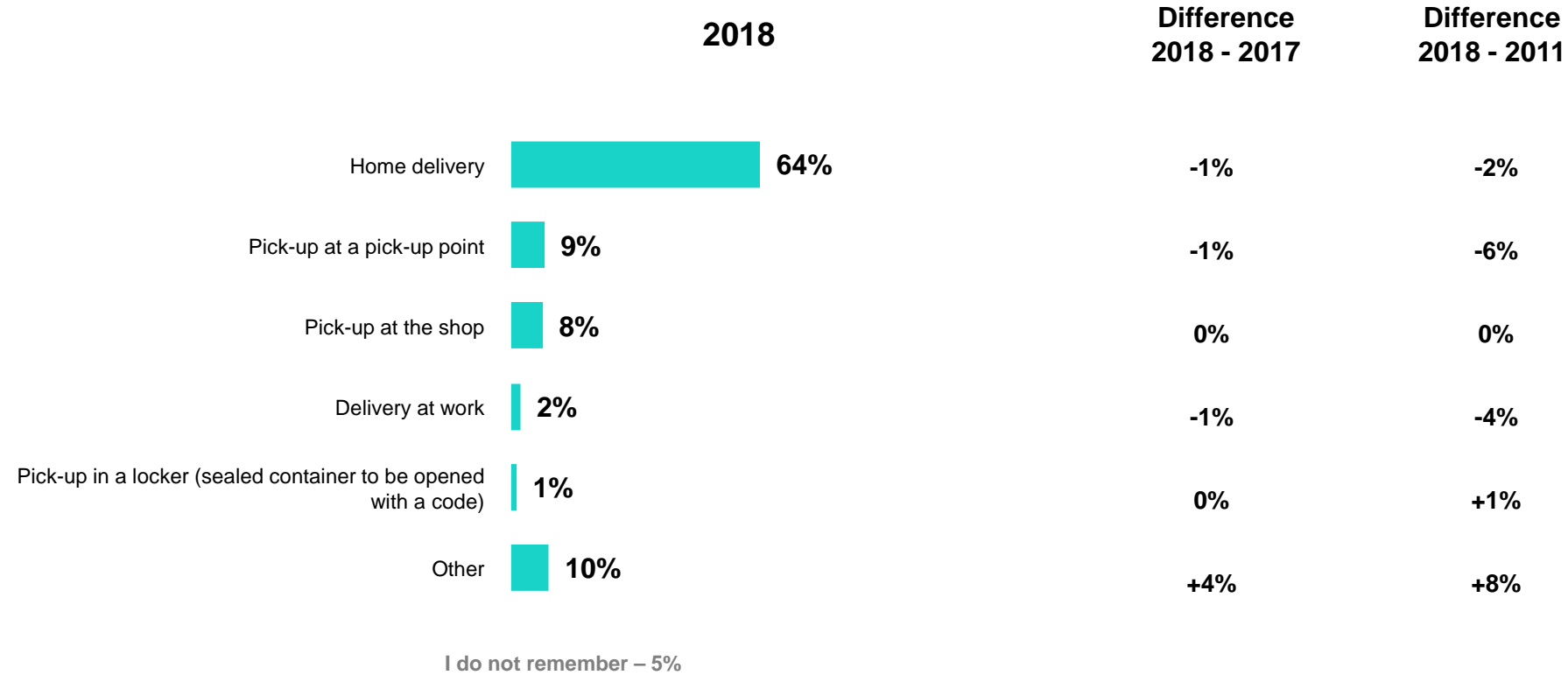
The Bancontact app makes a difference : 1 out of 10 purchases with the app

E-commerce experience

Delivery method

Q: How was <PRODUCT> delivered?

Nothing beats home delivery



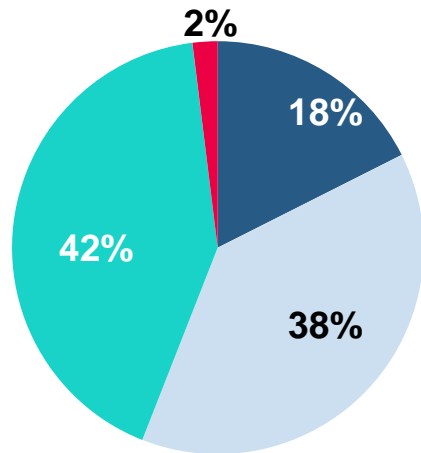
E-commerce experience

Time of purchase / Delivery Time

Almost half of online purchases done after working hours

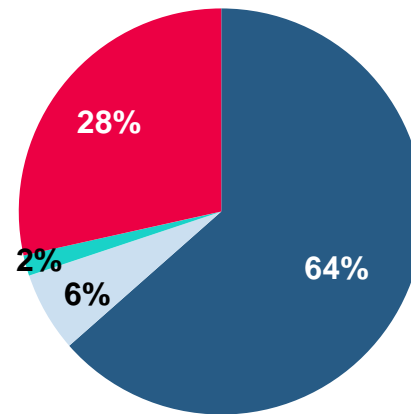
Q: At what time of the day do you do your purchase? / What day was your online purchase delivered? / At what time was your online purchase delivered?

Time of purchase



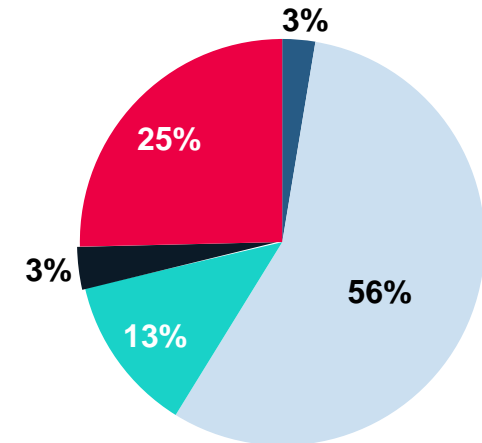
- Mornings (6:00 – 11:59)
- During the day (12:00 – 17:59)
- Evenings (18:00 – 23:59)
- Nights (00:00 – 05:59)

Day of delivery



- During the week
- A Saturday
- A Sunday
- I do not remember

Hour of delivery



- Before 09:00
- Between 09:00 and 17:00
- Between 17:00 and 20:00
- After 20:00
- I do not remember



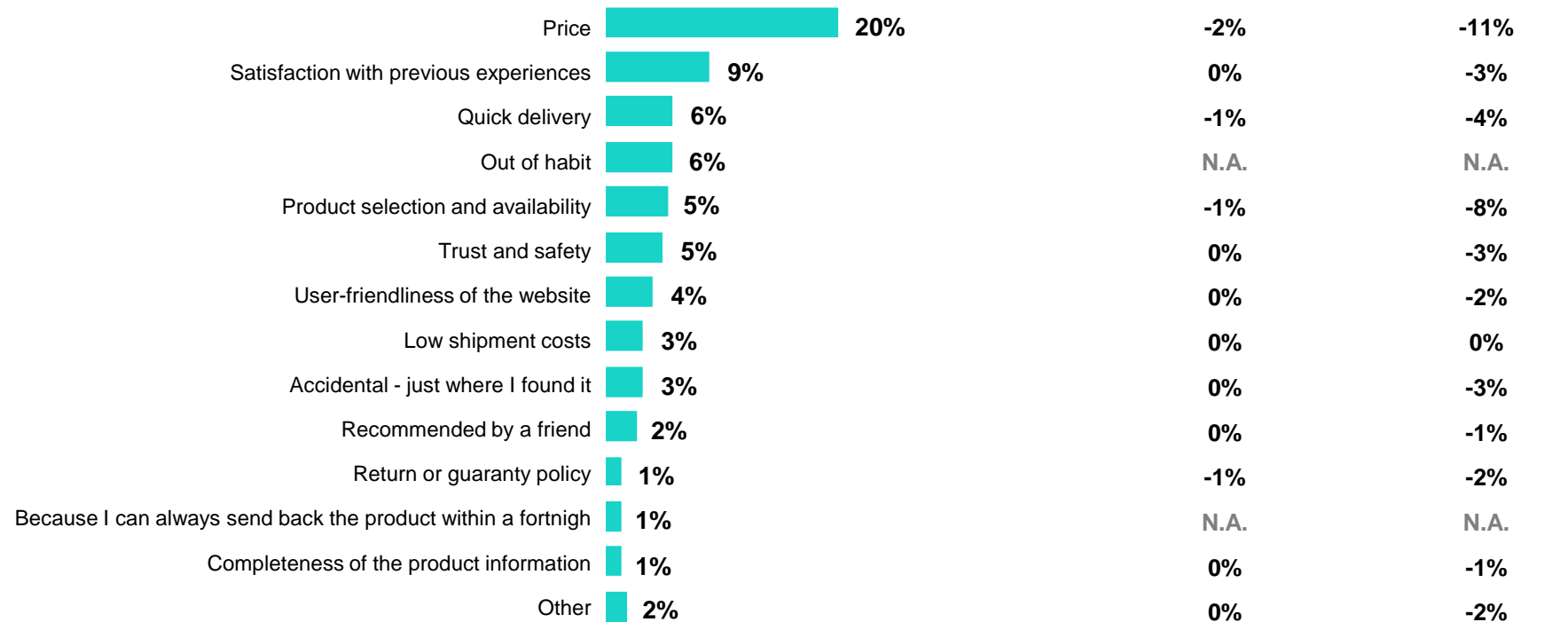
E-commerce experience

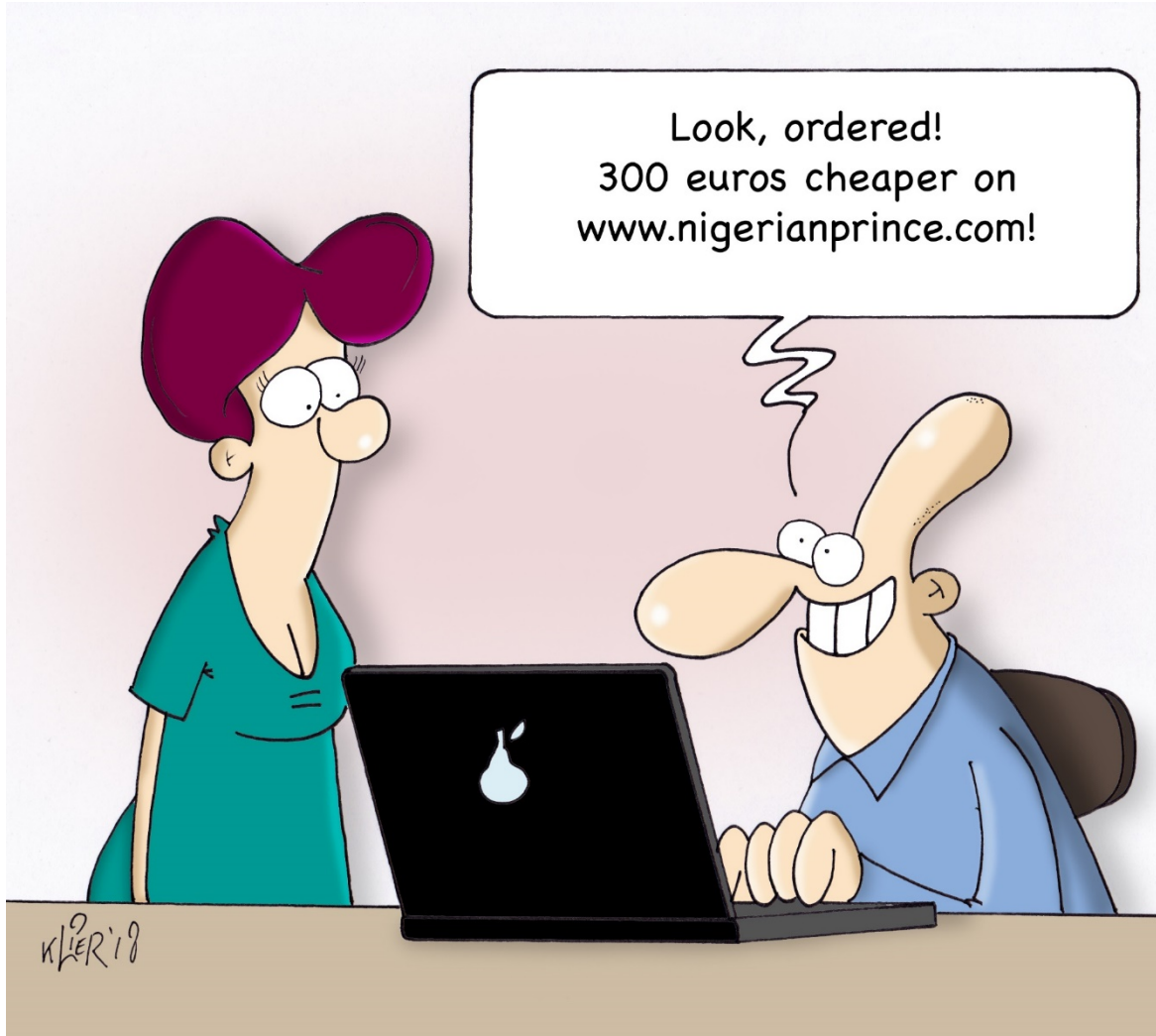
Website Drivers

Q: Why did you use <website> for your online purchase? Please indicate the 3 main factors.

Websites must focus on price and experience

% indicated as the main factor of using <website>

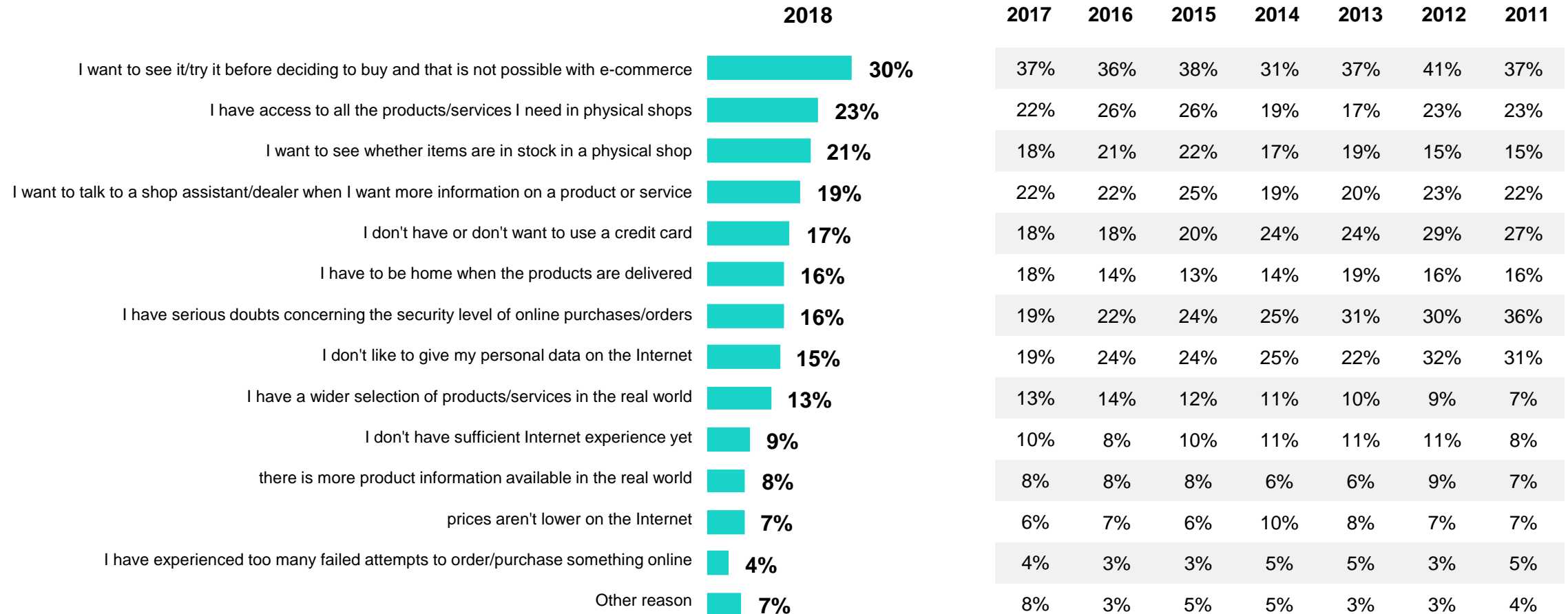




E-commerce experience

Barriers

Q: Please tick the 3 main reasons for you for not yet having bought new products or services online?



Security & sharing personal data no longer an issue

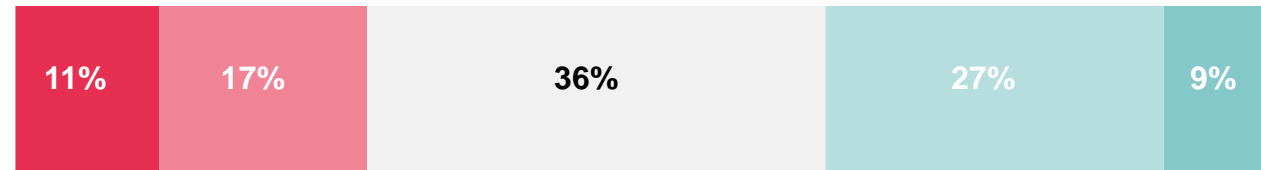
E-commerce experience

Future interest

Q: Would you consider buying new products/services on the Internet in the future? | How likely are you to purchase other new products or services on the Internet in the future?

Interest of laggards increases a lot : from 23% to 36%

Among consumers who never purchased online



Among consumers who buy online

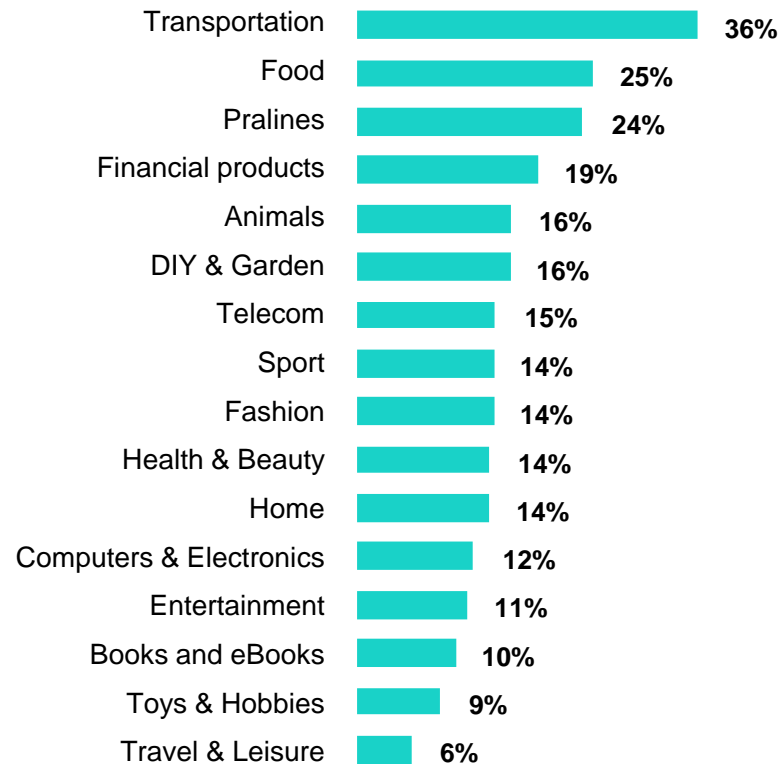


Legend: ■ Certainly not ■ Probably not ■ Neutral ■ Probably ■ Certainly

E-commerce experience

Rejection to buy online (non-buyers included)

Q: Which of the following products/ services would you **never (again)** purchase online?



E-commerce experience

Reasons of rejection to buy online (non-buyers included)

Q: Why would you never buy the following three products online (again)?



E-commerce experience

Reasons of rejection to buy online - Details

Sellers of financial products can't convince online buyers

Q: Why would you never buy the following three products online (again)?

	Total	Books & eBooks	Entertainment	Computer & Electronics	Telecom	Fashion	Toys & hobby	Home	DIY & Garden	Food	Pralines	Health & beauty	Sport	Animals	Traveling & leisure time	Transportation	Financial products
Because I want to see or try it first	40%	22%	14%	54%	14%	72%	37%	53%	49%	31%	40%	36%	57%	41%	14%	55%	11%
Because I wish to be able to talk to the shop assistant or seller	26%	7%	13%	41%	52%	20%	23%	21%	35%	10%	8%	33%	17%	16%	27%	32%	63%
Because physical shops clearly offer advantages, e.g. wider range, immediately available...	21%	13%	11%	22%	16%	23%	29%	30%	24%	33%	30%	24%	15%	30%	15%	16%	11%
I would never buy this product, not even offline in a physical shop	16%	33%	48%	7%	12%	8%	20%	11%	9%	17%	6%	11%	15%	10%	18%	6%	4%
Out of habit	15%	19%	18%	11%	23%	8%	18%	12%	8%	24%	25%	17%	10%	24%	25%	7%	11%
Because the value of the product is too important	14%	10%	8%	25%	15%	12%	9%	12%	12%	5%	3%	6%	7%	7%	14%	44%	23%
Because online purchasing does not offer any clear advantage, e.g. cheaper, quicker...	12%	14%	9%	9%	17%	8%	12%	14%	13%	18%	18%	16%	7%	12%	16%	8%	14%
Other	4%	9%	6%	4%	2%	3%	4%	1%	2%	7%	4%	8%	6%	4%	8%	1%	3%

DEVICES



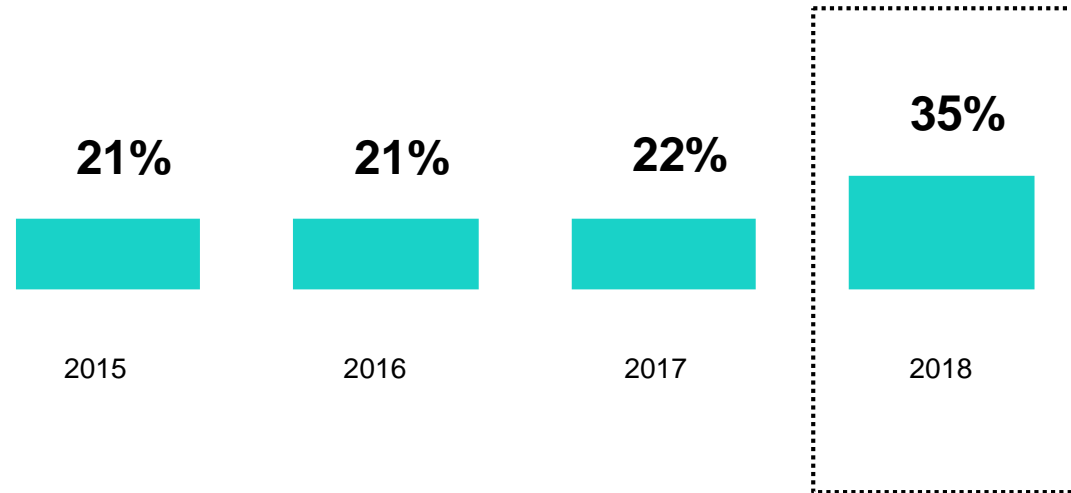
Devices

Mobile devices

Q: Did you buy new - non-secondhand - products or services via the Internet in the past 12 months?

M-commerce reached the critical mass

Purchased on mobile device (smartphone / tablet) in the last 12 months

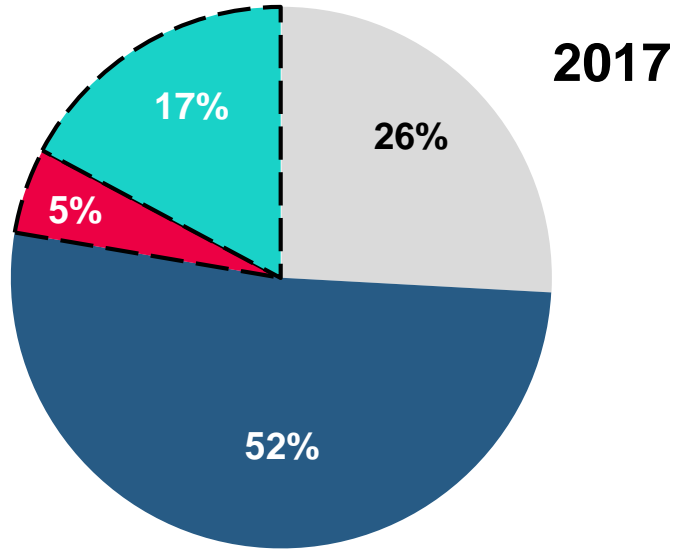


Devices

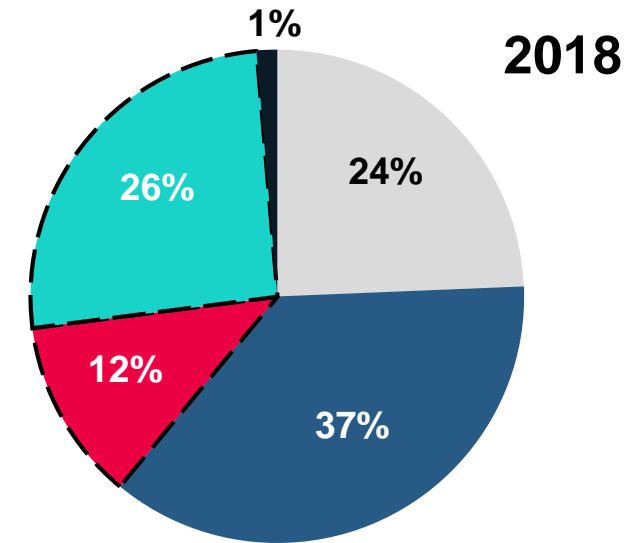
Mobile devices

Q: Did you buy new - non-secondhand - products or services via the Internet in the past 12 months?

Purchasing only via smartphone/tablet doubled



vs.



- Purchased **only** via computer/laptop
- Purchased **only** via smartphone/tablet
- Purchased via computer/laptop **and** smartphone/tablet
- Haven't purchased in the last 12 months

- Purchased **only** via computer/laptop
- Purchased **only** via smartphone/tablet
- Purchased via mixed devices (e.g. computer & smartphone; computer & kiosk in store)
- Other (kiosk in store, QR code in store)
- Haven't purchased in the last 12 months

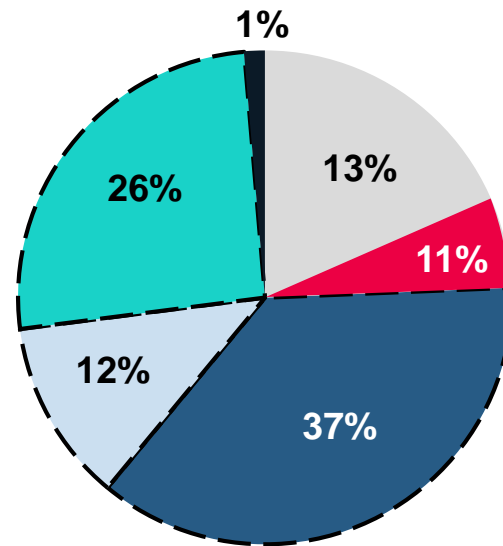
Devices

Mobile devices

Q: Did you buy new - non-secondhand - products or services via the Internet in the past 12 months?

Potential market:
89%

Absolute market:
76%



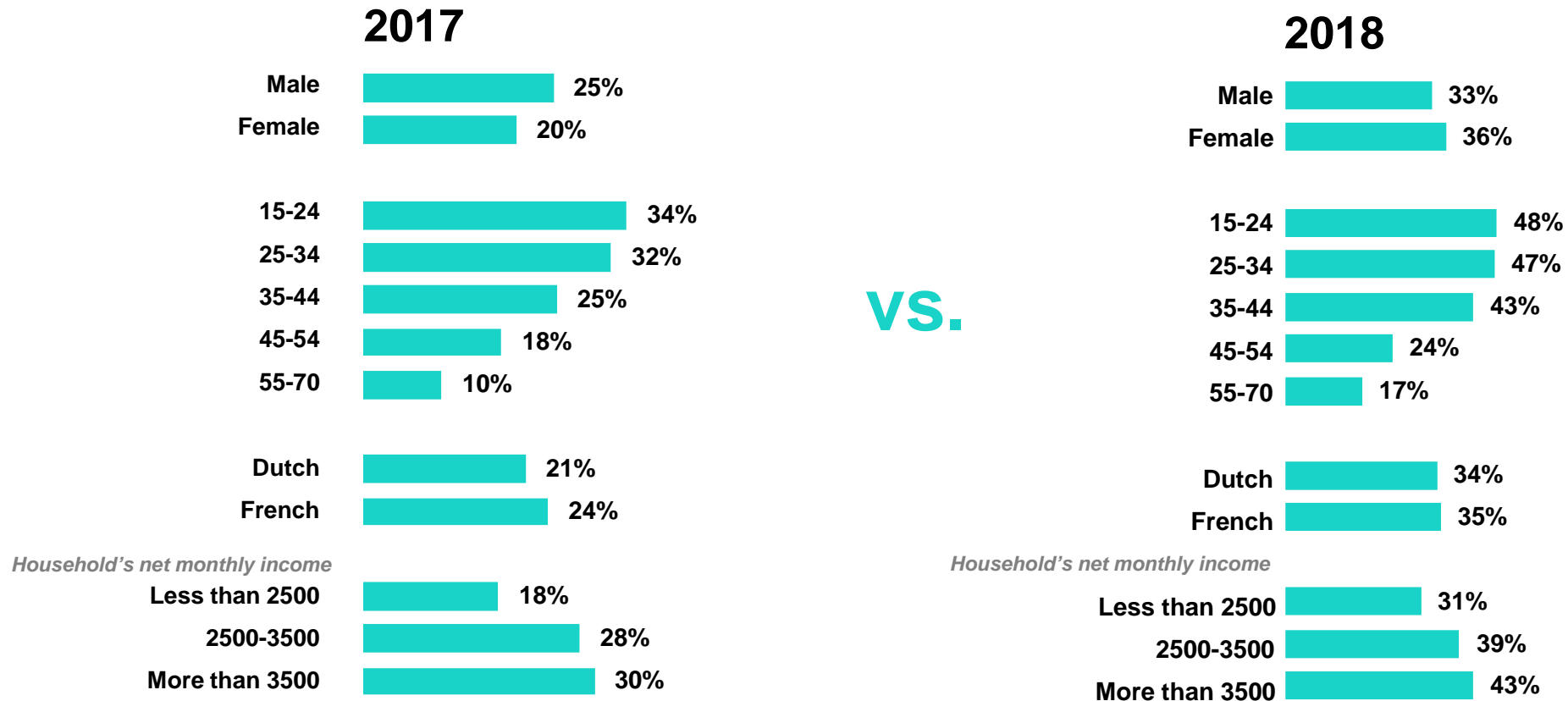
- Purchased **only** via computer/laptop
- Purchased **only** via smartphone/tablet
- Purchased via mixed devices (e.g. computer & smartphone; computer & kiosk in store)
- Other (via a kiosk in store, or in a different way)
- Haven't purchased in the last 12 months, but considering
- Haven't purchased in the last 12 months, **not** considering

Devices

Mobile devices

Number of women buying on mobile devices almost doubled

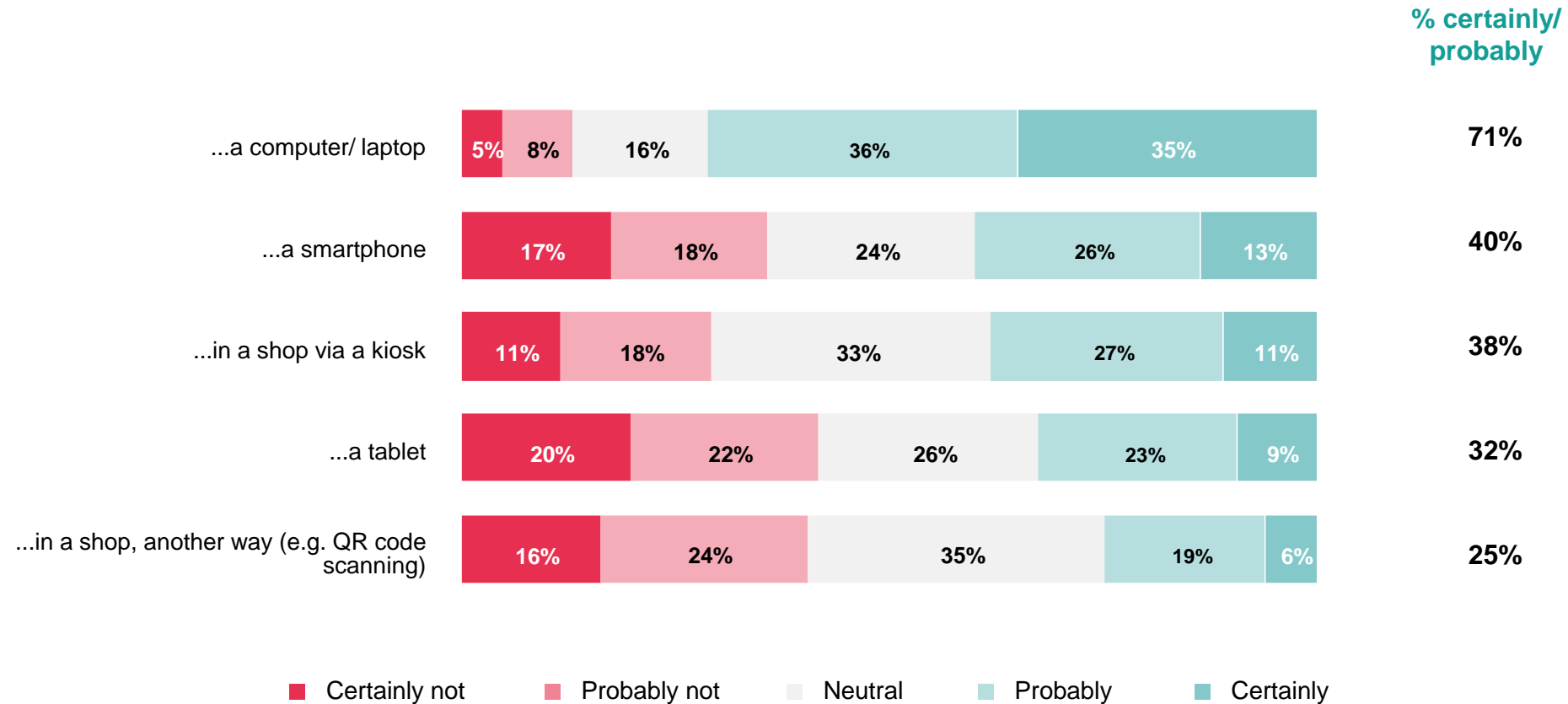
Q: Did you buy new - non-secondhand - products or services via the Internet in the past 12 months?



Devices

Future intention to buy

Q: Do you consider buying new products/ services via the internet in the future, via...?



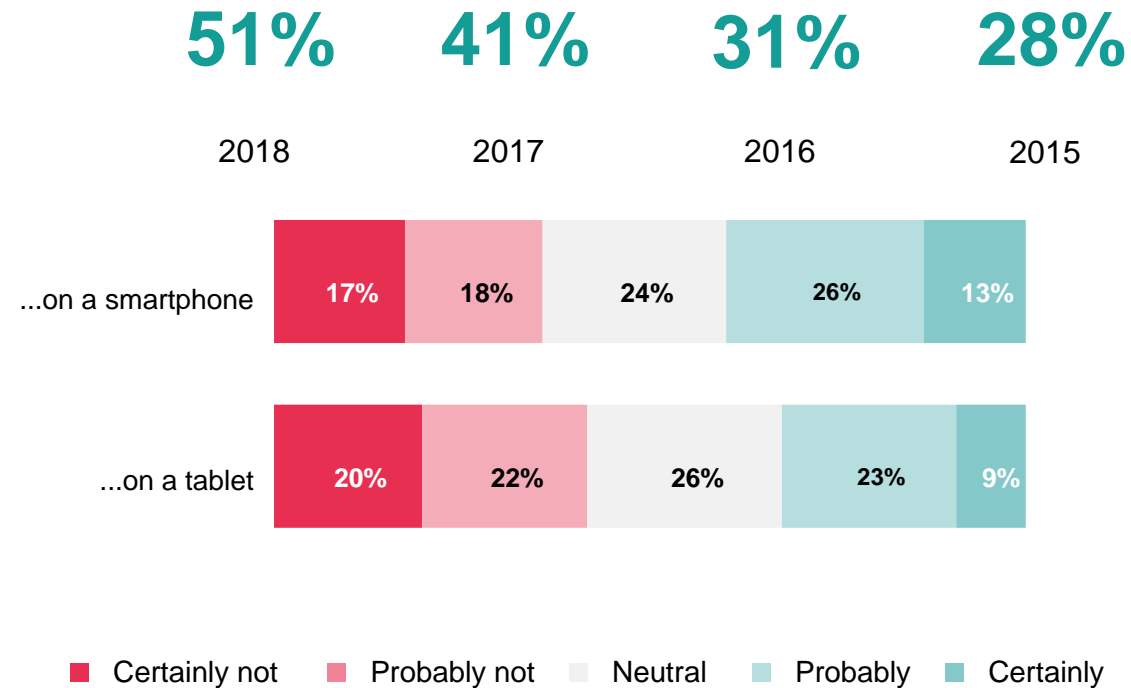
Devices

Future intention to buy on mobile device

Q: Do you consider buying new products/ services via the internet in the future, via...?

1 out of 2 intends to buy on mobile devices

% certainly/ probably buy on a smartphone or tablet



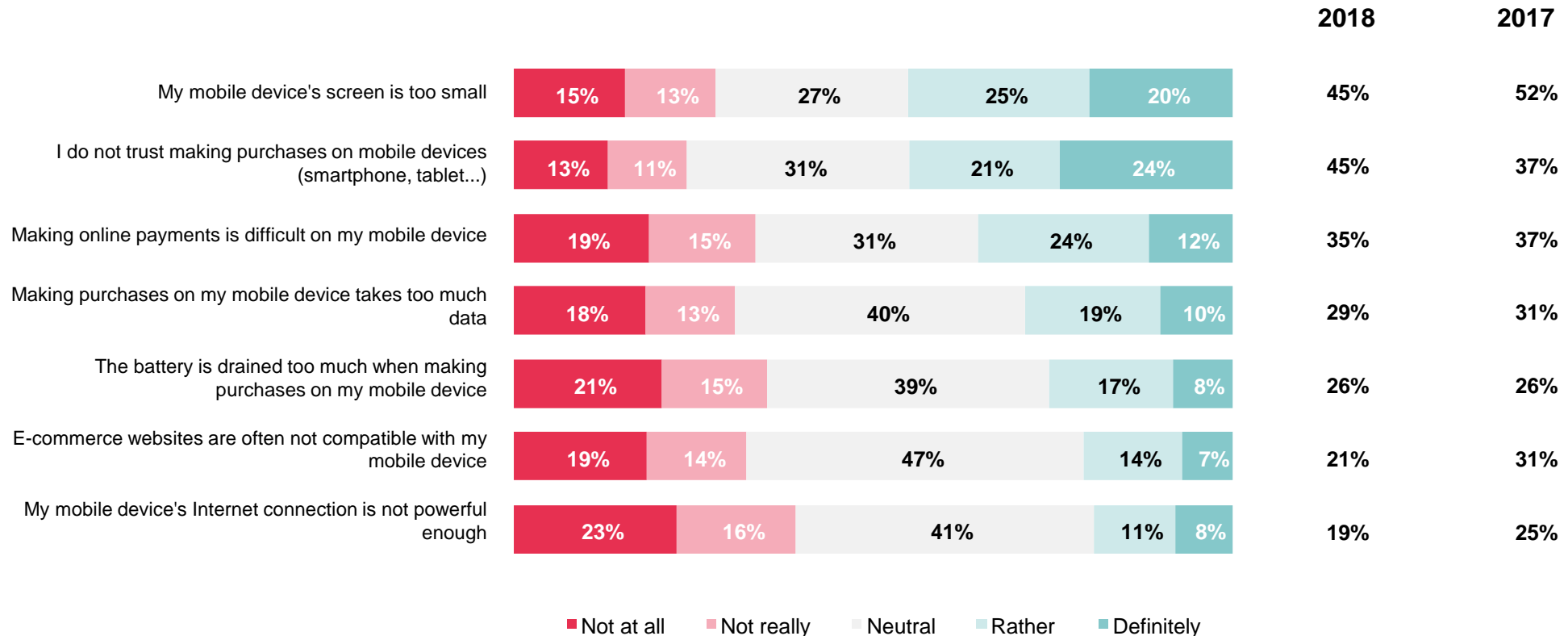
Devices

Barriers for making mobile purchases

Q: To what extent does each of the following aspects stop you from making purchases through a mobile device?

Barriers are less dissuading

% Definitely / rather



ONLINE PURCHASES

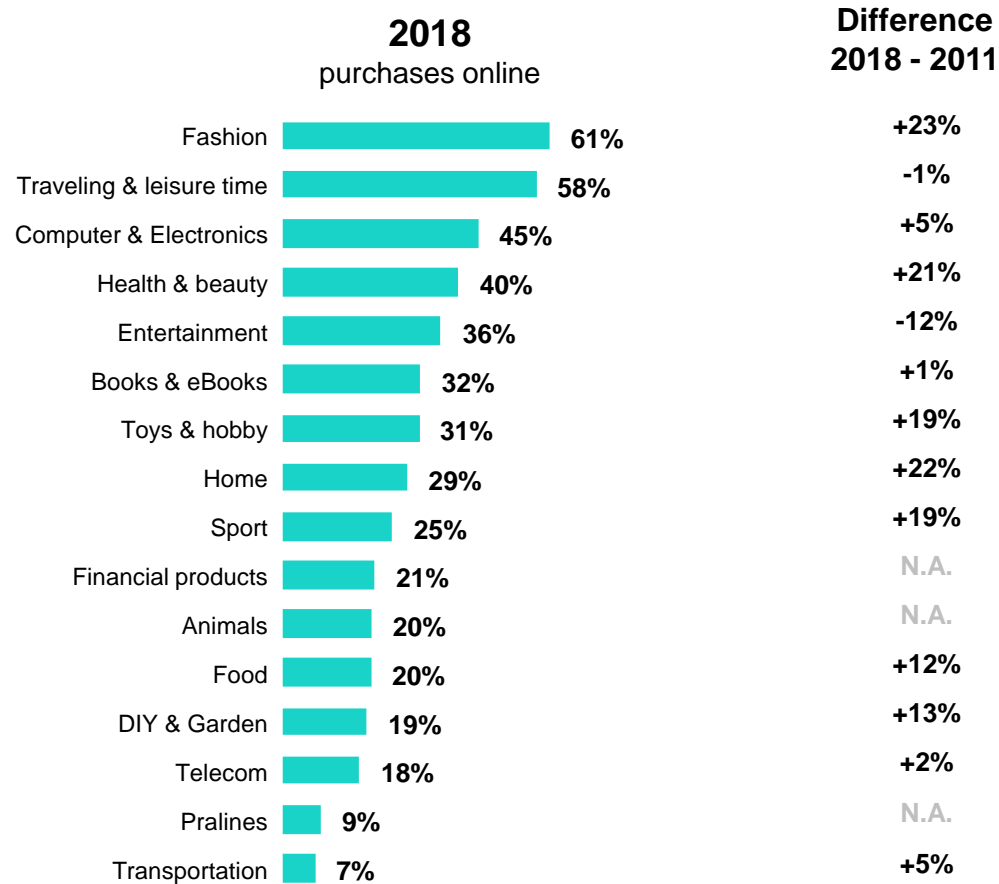


Online purchases

Current purchase new products

Slight decline for Traveling & Leisure in 7 years

Q: Below we have listed all new products and services which you have bought in the past 12 months. Please indicate for each product/ service via which channel you bought it.

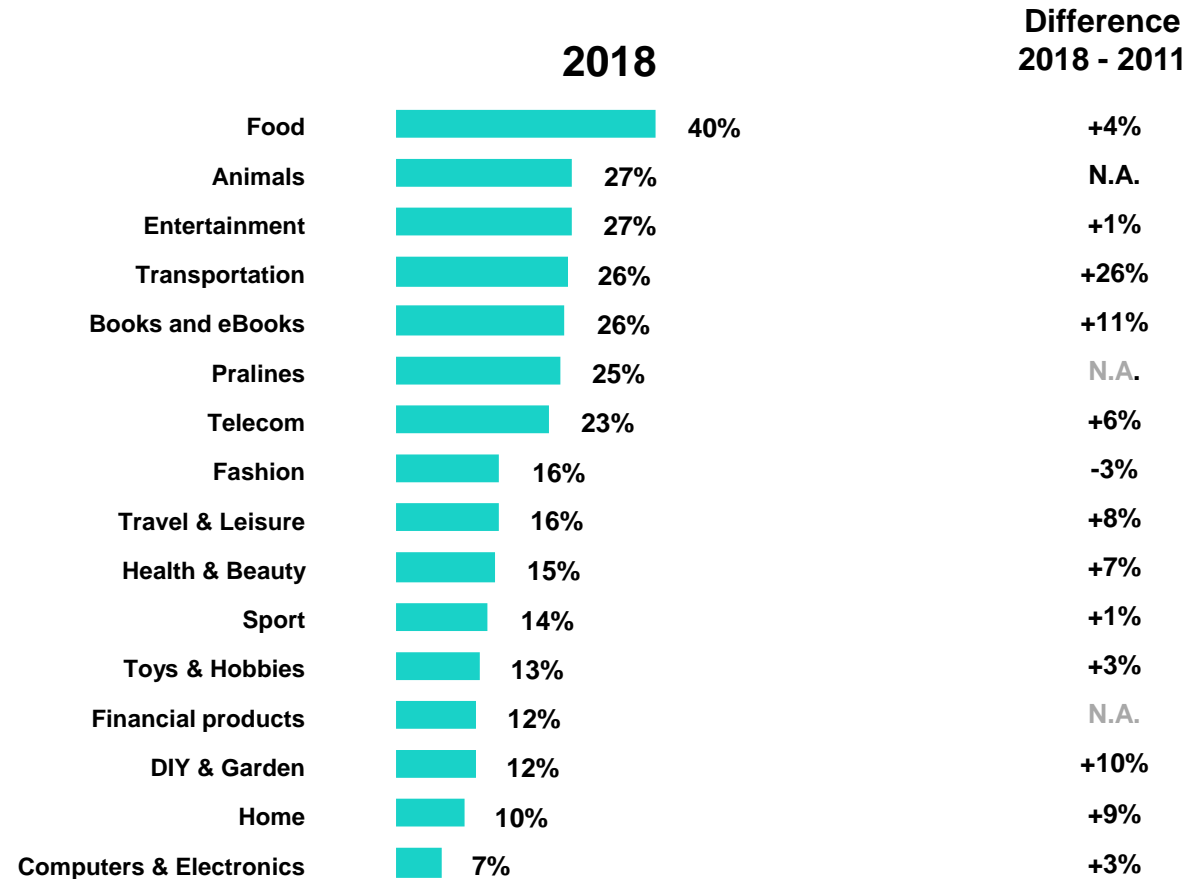


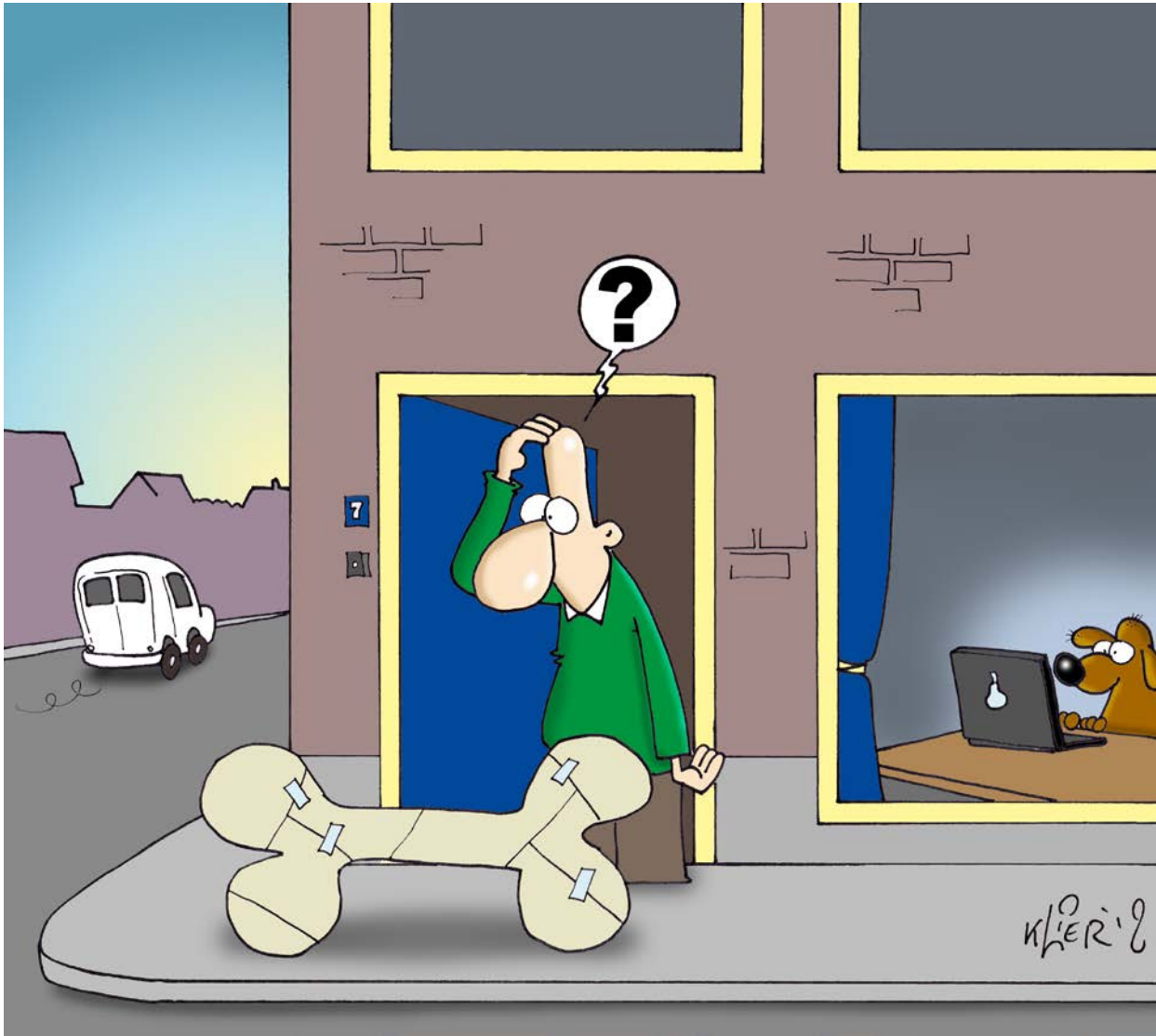
Online purchases

Buying frequency more than 5 times

Q: Please indicate how often you bought the following new products and services via the Internet in the past 12 months?

Animals second most frequently bought category



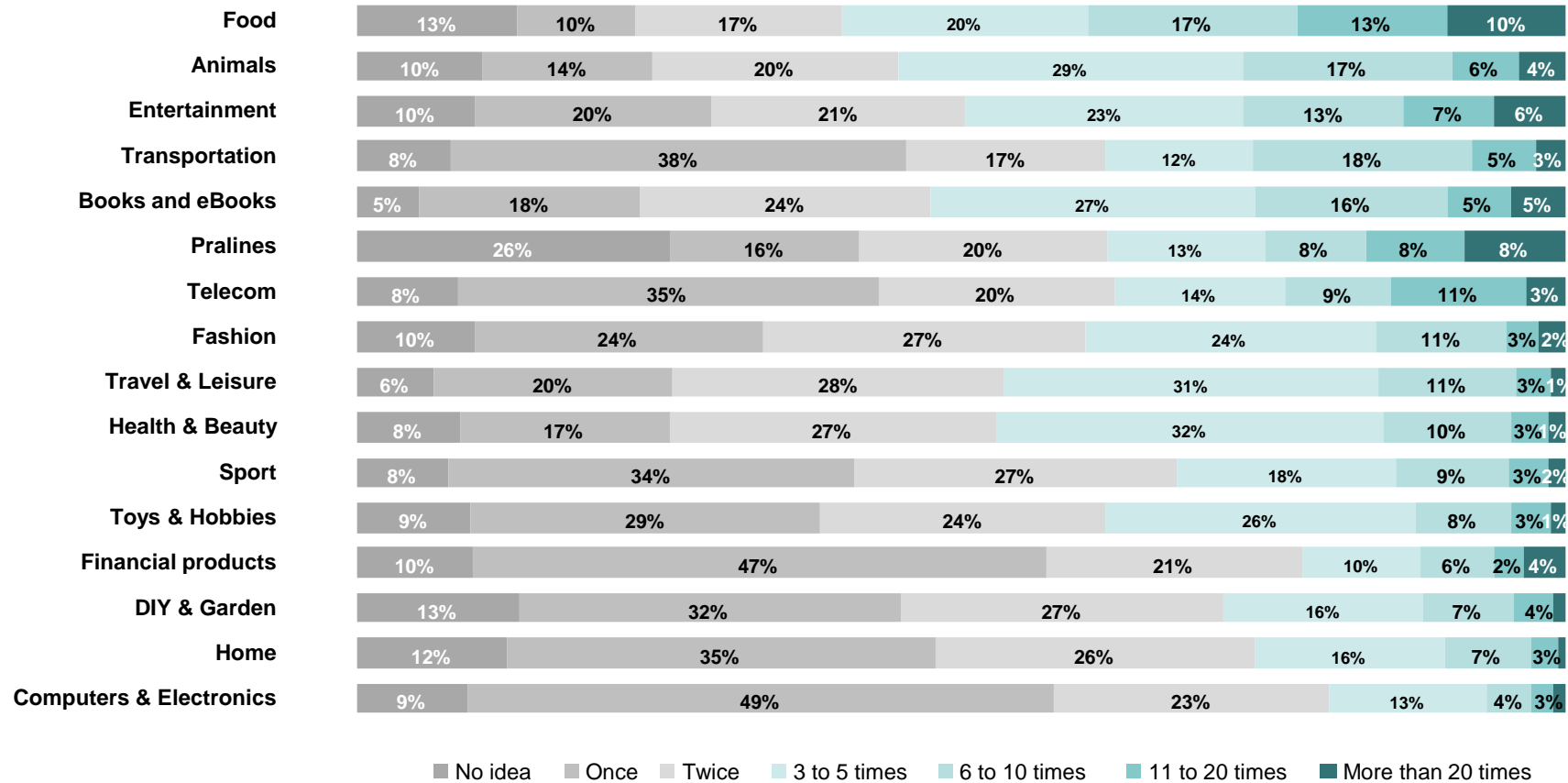


Online purchases

Frequency current online purchases

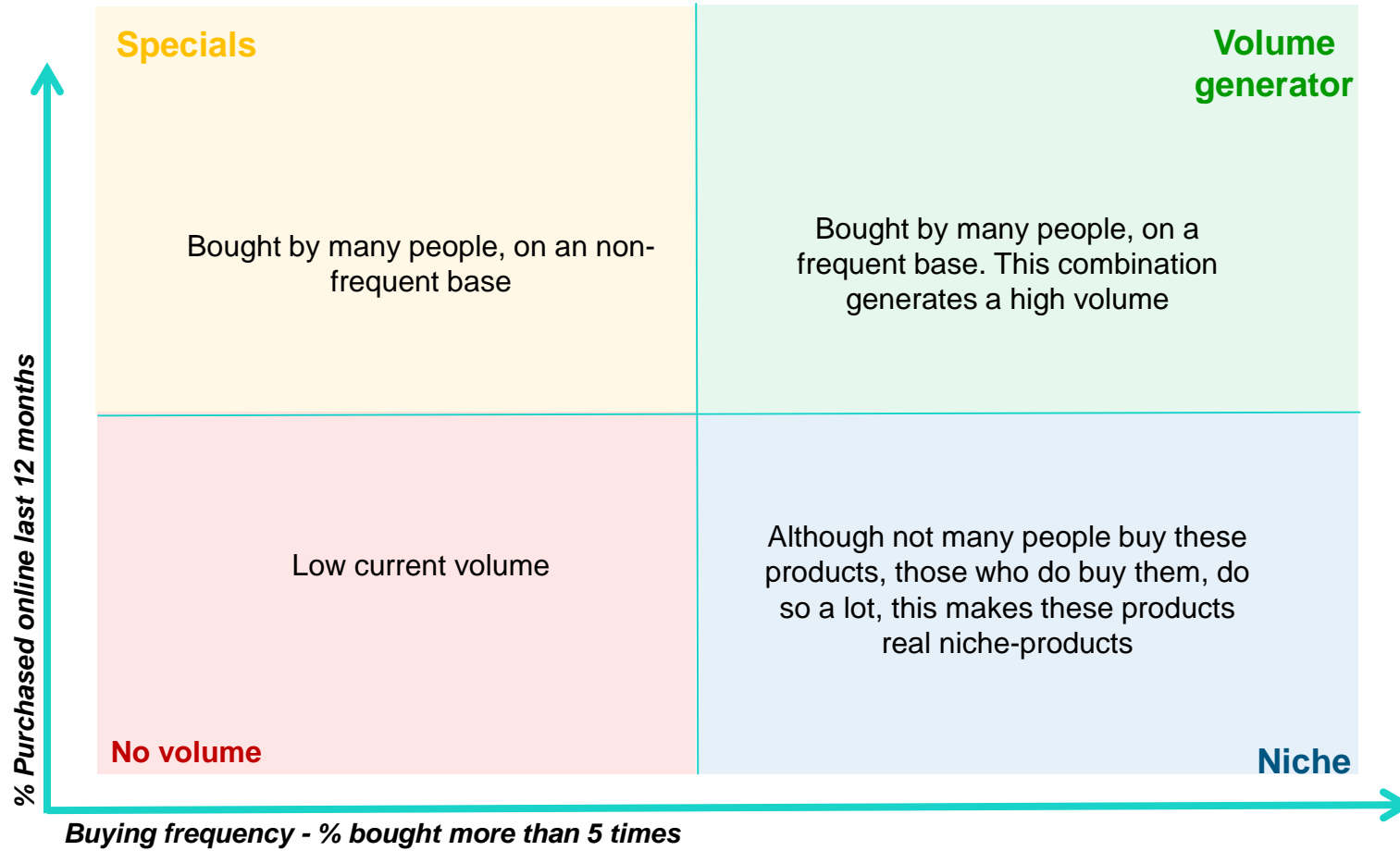
1 out of 10 buys Food twice a month

Q: Please indicate how often you bought the following new products and services via the Internet in the past 12 months?



Online purchases

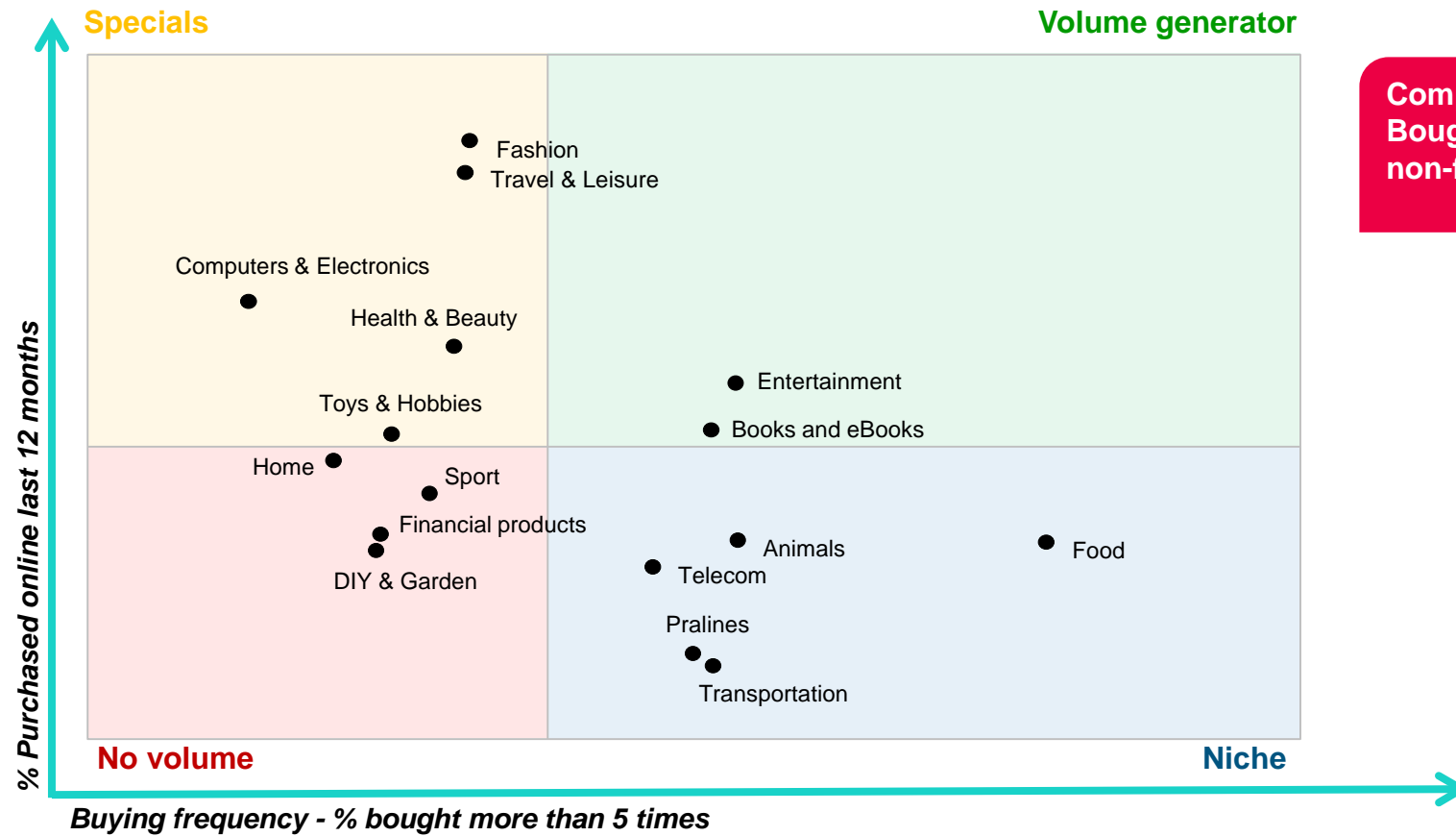
Quadrant explanation



Online purchases

Quadrant 2018

Q: Below we have listed all new products and services which you have bought in the past 12 months. Please indicate for each product/ service via which channel you bought it? / Please indicate how often you bought the following new products via the Internet (for personal purposes) in the past 12 months?

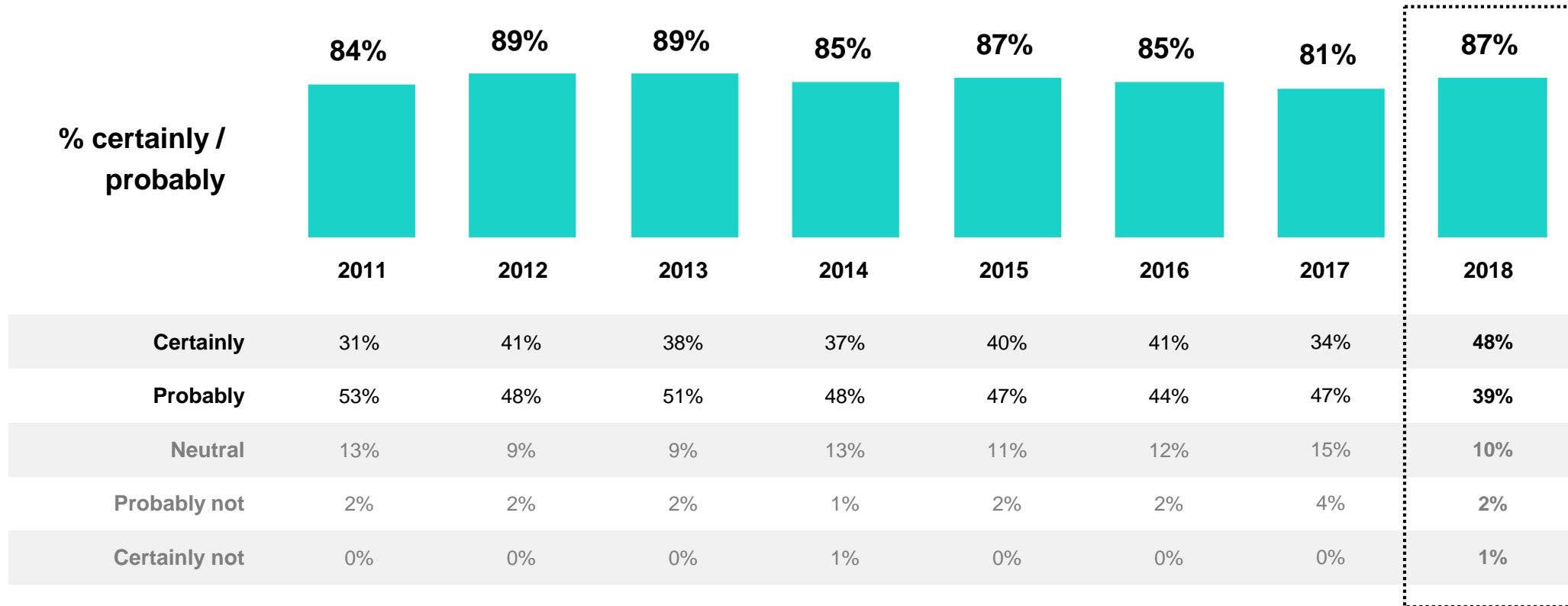


Computers & Electronics :
Bought online by many people, on a non-frequent base

Online purchases

Future intention to buy

Q: Would you consider buying new products/services on the Internet in the future?



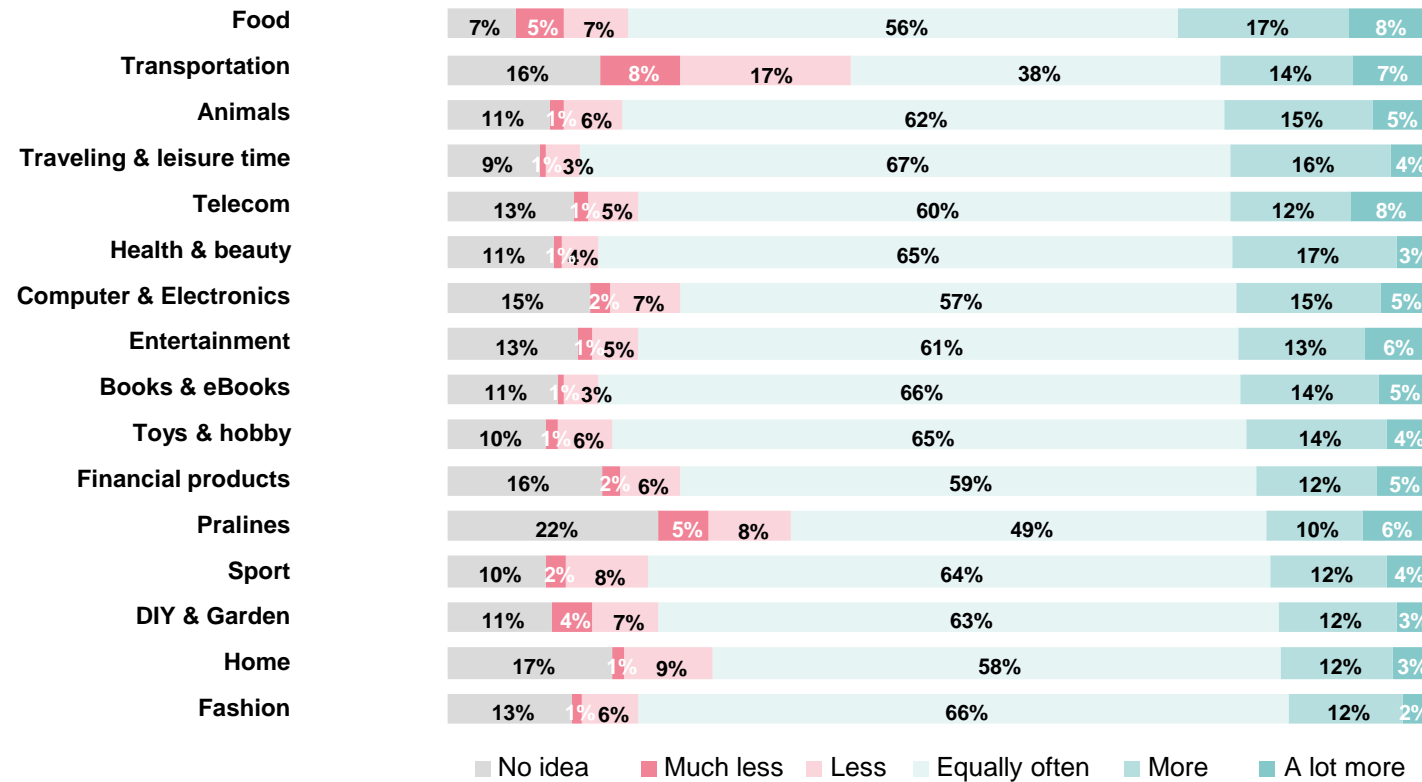
Online purchases

Future intention to buy

Q: Do you expect to buy <category> more or less often online in the future?

All categories can expect at least a 15% increase

Top 2% - would buy more

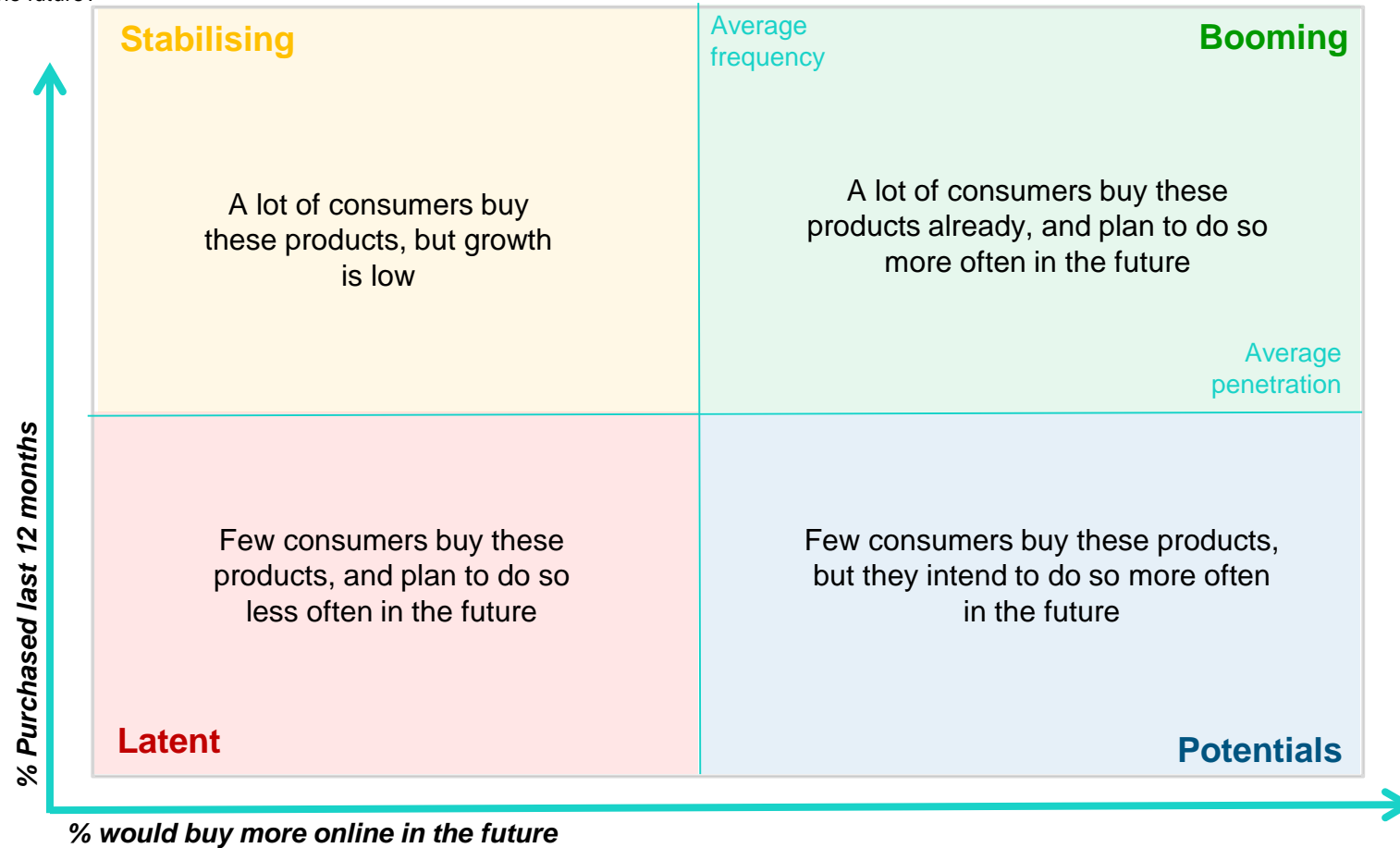


	2018	2017	2016
Food	25%	25%	12%
Transportation	21%	16%	26%
Animals	21%	17%	N.A.
Traveling & leisure time	20%	22%	23%
Telecom	20%	21%	16%
Health & beauty	20%	18%	25%
Computer & Electronics	19%	13%	22%
Entertainment	19%	19%	23%
Books & eBooks	19%	22%	28%
Toys & hobby	18%	17%	18%
Financial products	17%	7%	24%
Pralines	16%	17%	N.A.
Sport	16%	17%	19%
DIY & Garden	15%	15%	20%
Home	15%	10%	15%
Fashion	14%	15%	27%

Online purchases

Quadrant methodology

Q: Below we have listed all new products and services which you have bought in the past 12 months. Please indicate for each product/ service via which channel you bought it? | Do you expect to buy <category> more or less often online in the future?

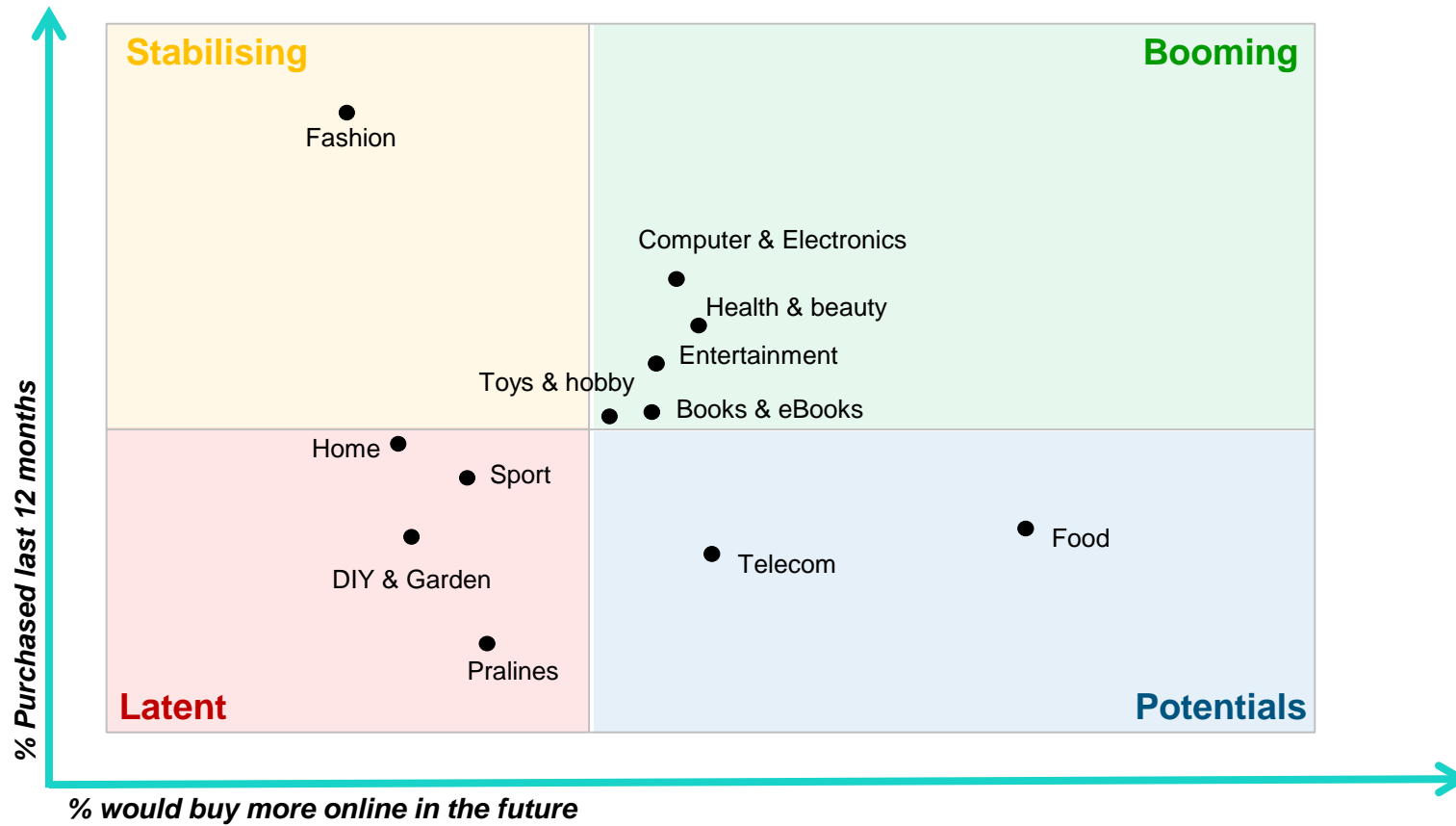


Online purchases

Quadrant 2018

Fashion has reached the critical mass

Q: Below we have listed all new products and services which you have bought in the past 12 months. Please indicate for each product/ service via which channel you bought it? | Do you expect to buy <category> more or less often online in the future?





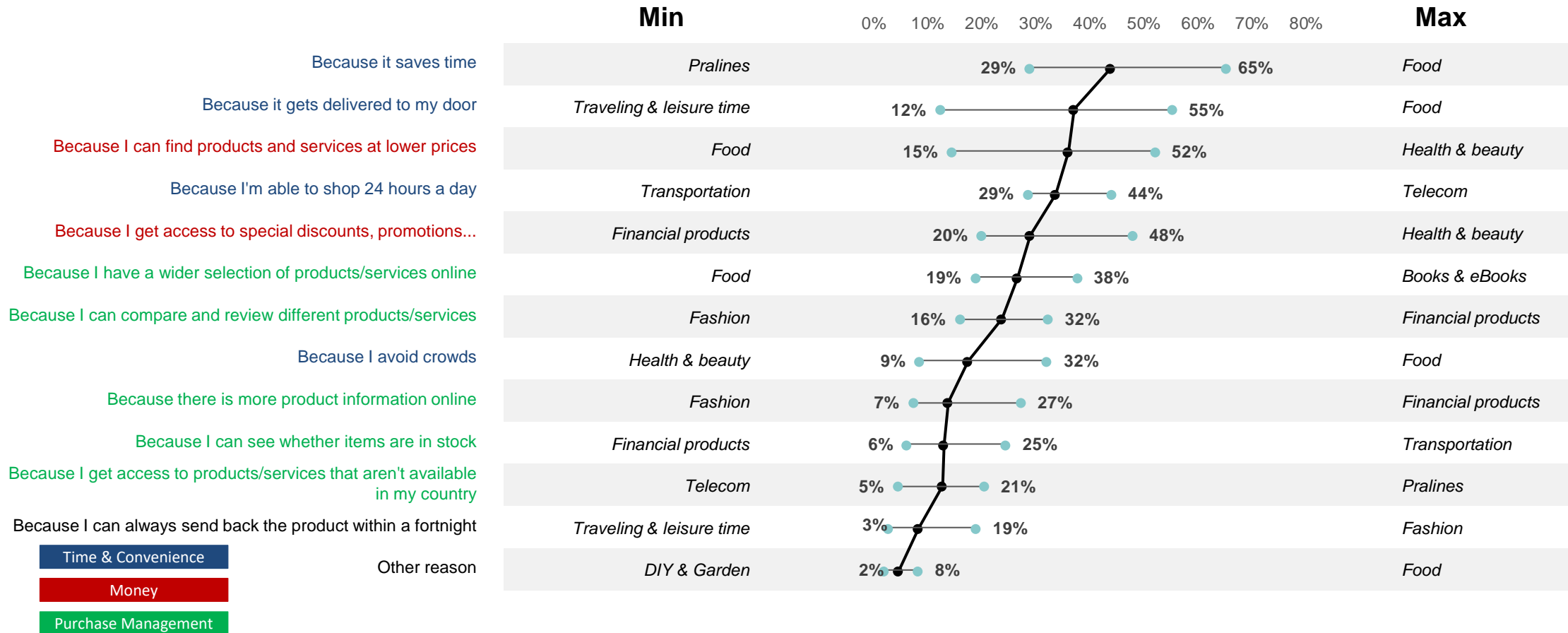
SECTOR FOCUS

Sector focus

Drivers for E-commerce – per category

Various drivers across categories

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

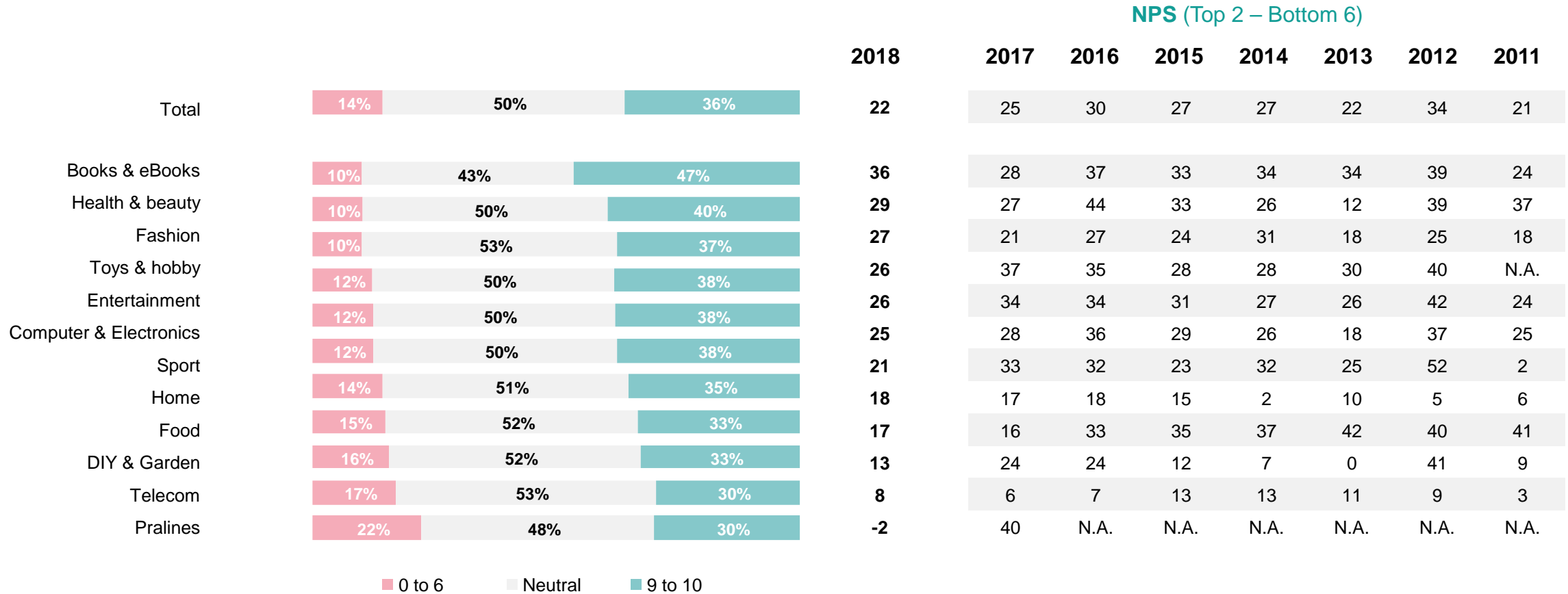


Sector focus

Website Recommendation

Websites selling books most likely to be recommended

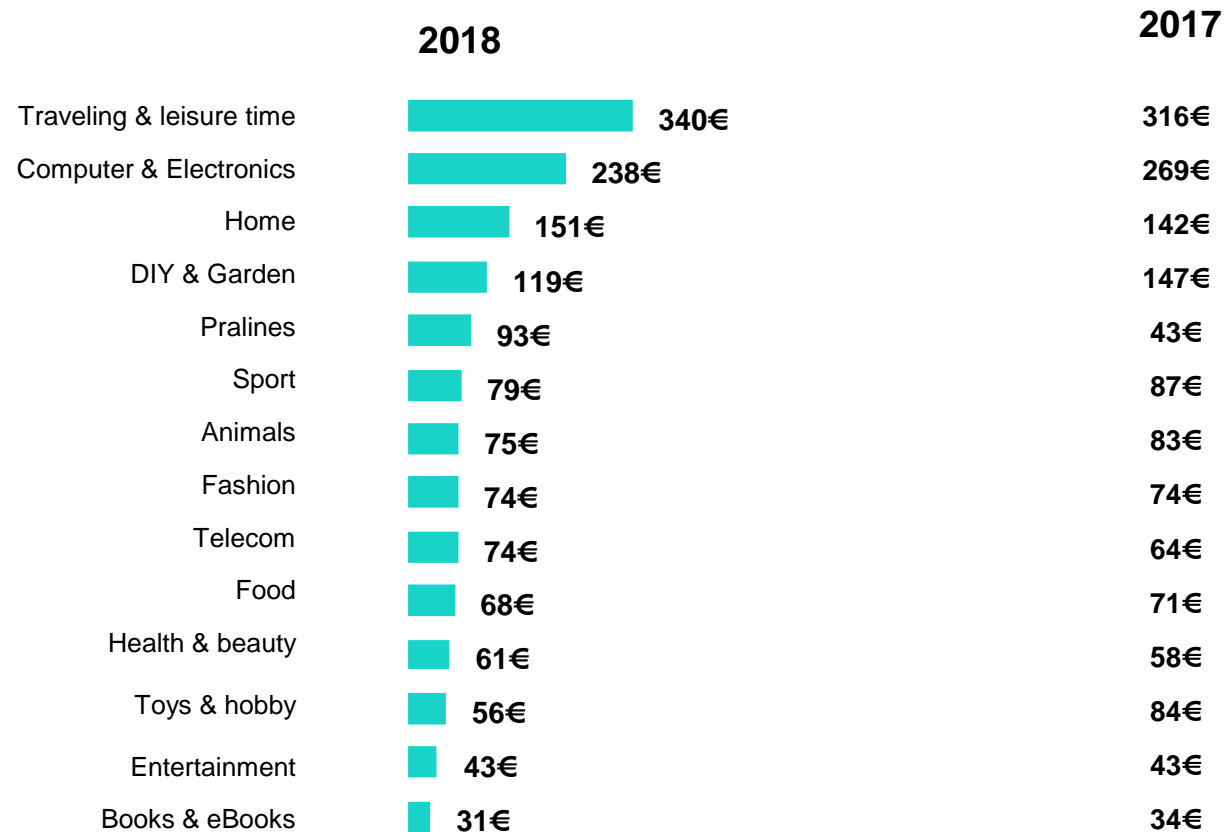
Q: Please think back to the entire process of your online purchase of <PRODUCT>. How likely are you to recommend <WEBSITE> to a friend, on a scale from 0 to 10?



Sector focus

Purchase amount

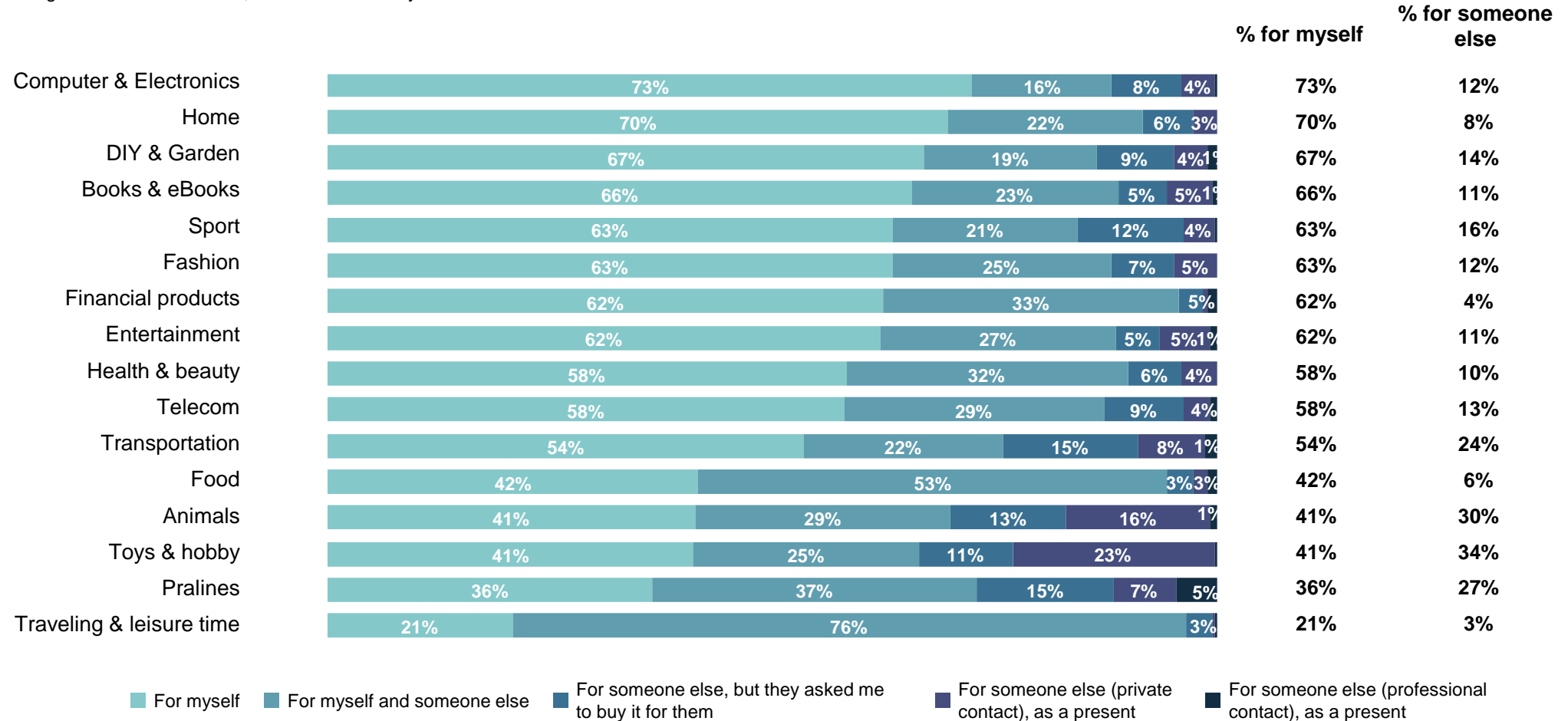
Q: How much money did you spend at your most recent online purchase?



Sector focus

Who are you buying for

Q: When you bought <PRODUCT> online, was it intended for yourself or for someone else?



E-COMMERCE TRUST



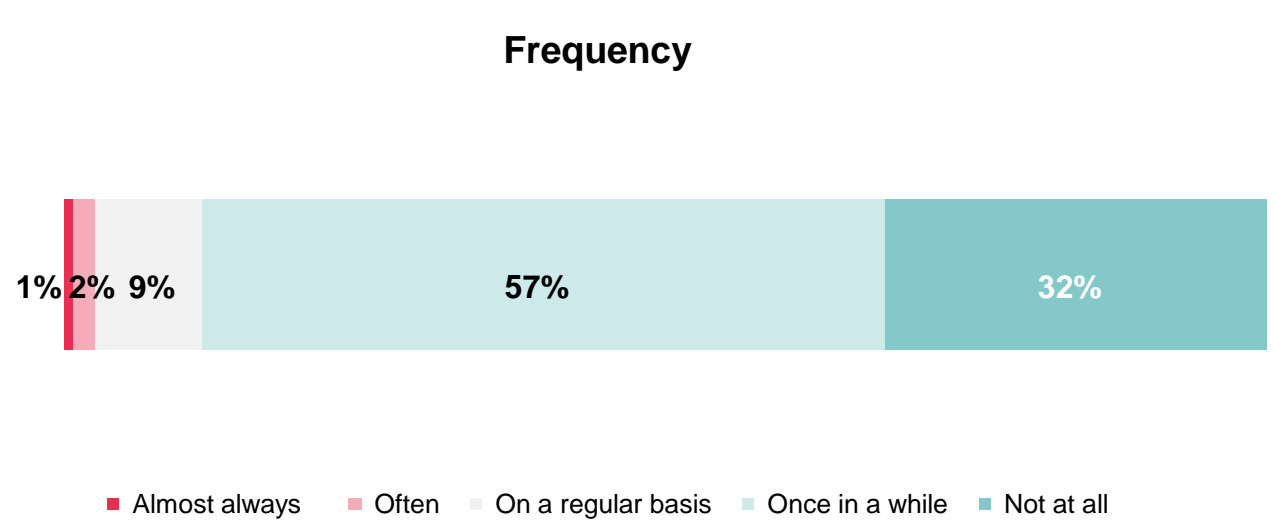


E-commerce trust

Frequency of returning products

Q: How often do you send back products which you bought via the Internet?

Almost 9 out of 10 rarely returns products



% top 2 (once in a while/ never)

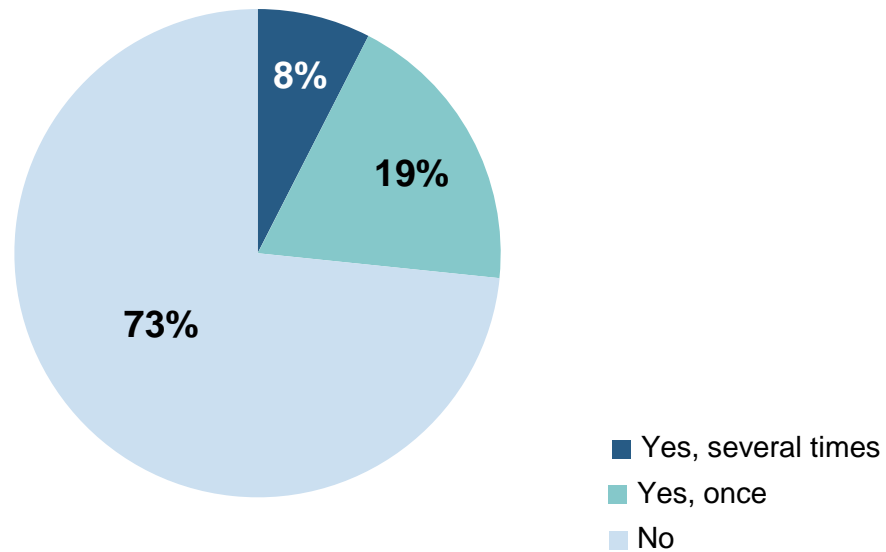
Year	Percentage
2018	89%
2017	87%

E-commerce trust

Encountered problem (purchase)

Q: Did you encounter any issues at your purchase of new products or services on the internet, in the past 12 months?

% encountered problem 2018



2017

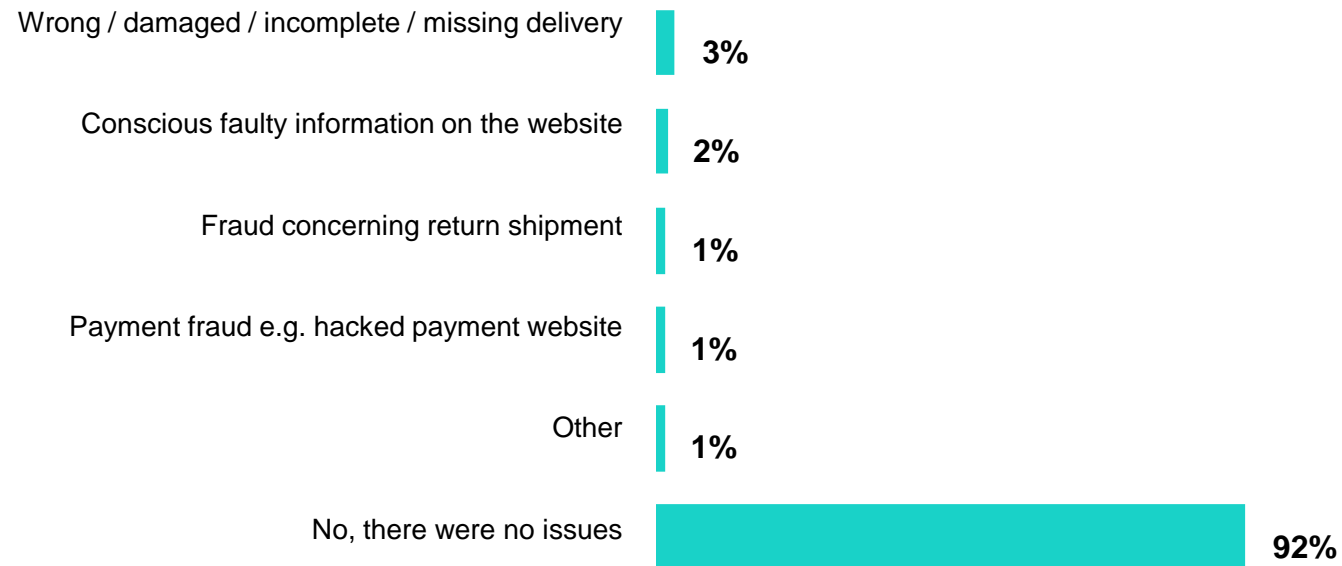
Yes, several times	6%
Yes, once	17%
No	77%

E-commerce trust

Encountered problem (delivery)

Q: Have you experienced problems with your delivery? If yes, which ones?

9 out of 10 didn't encounter any issue with the delivery





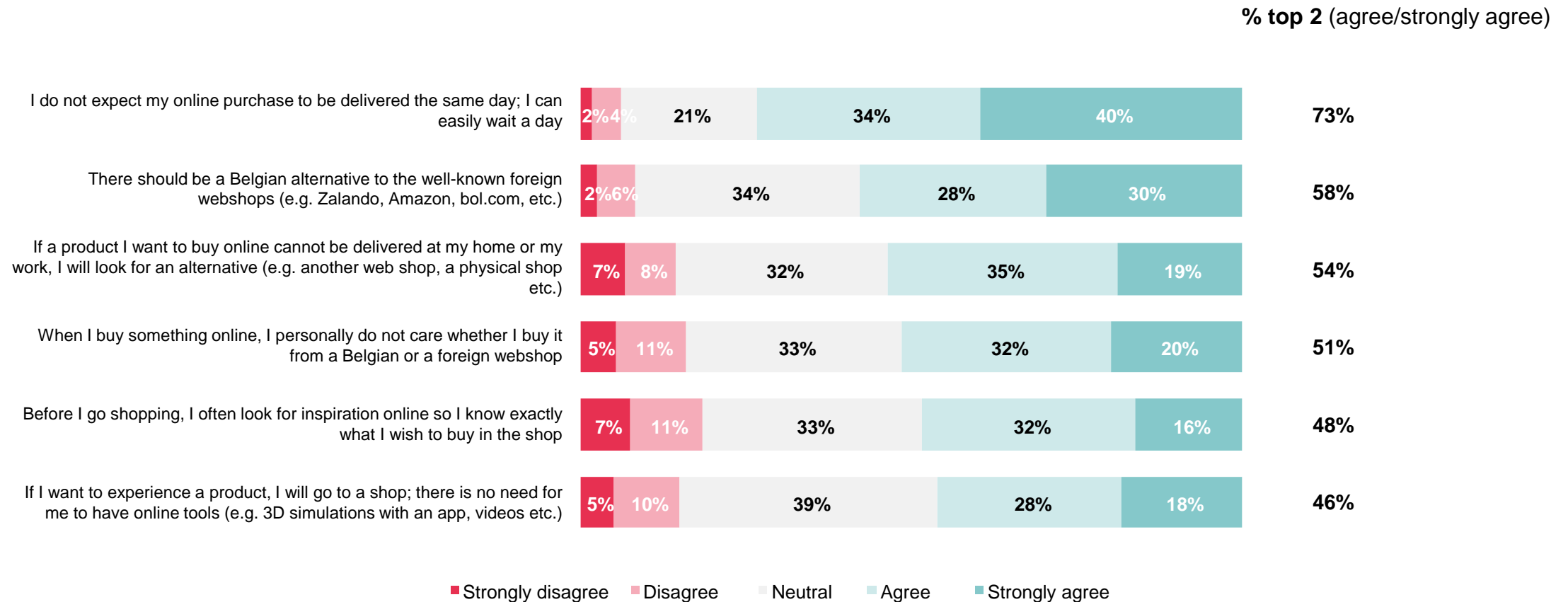
TRENDS & ATTITUDE

E-commerce trends & attitude

Details

6 out 10 wants a Belgian Amazon

Q: To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

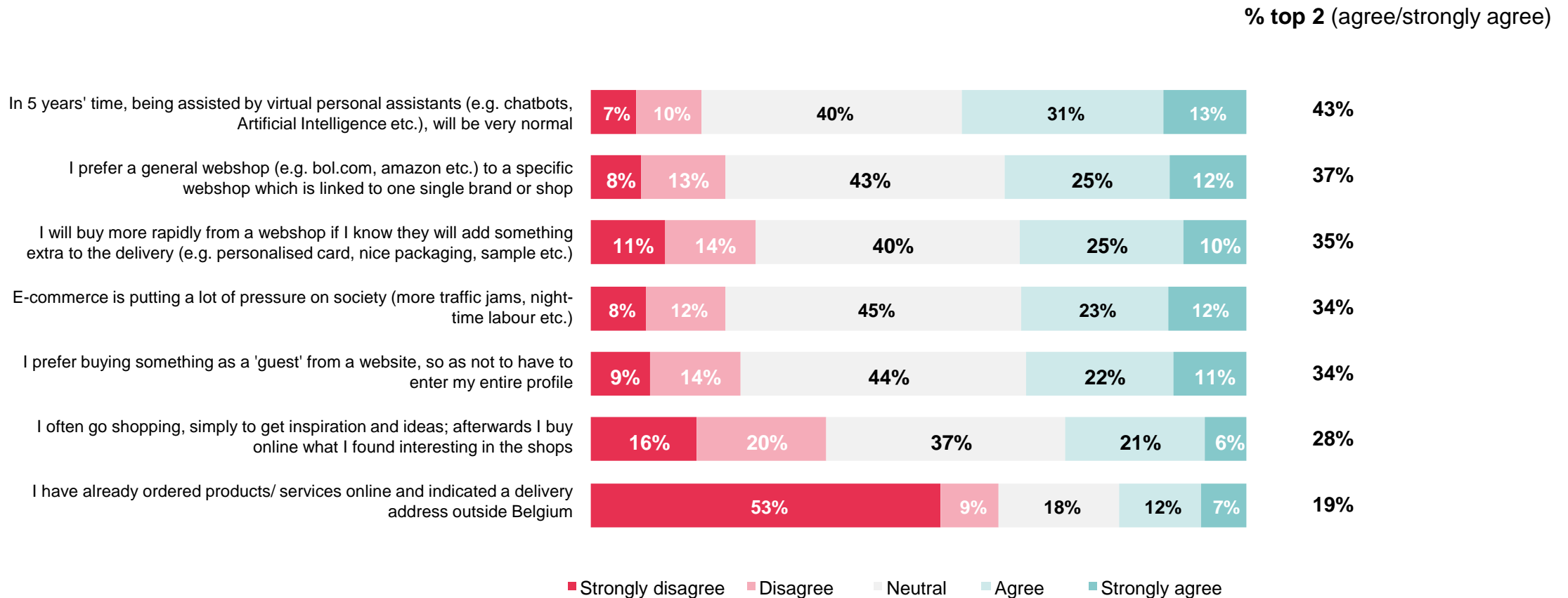


E-commerce trends & attitude

Details

Q: To what extent do you agree with each of the following statements?

Almost 1 out of 2 finds it normal to be helped by bots and virtual assistants



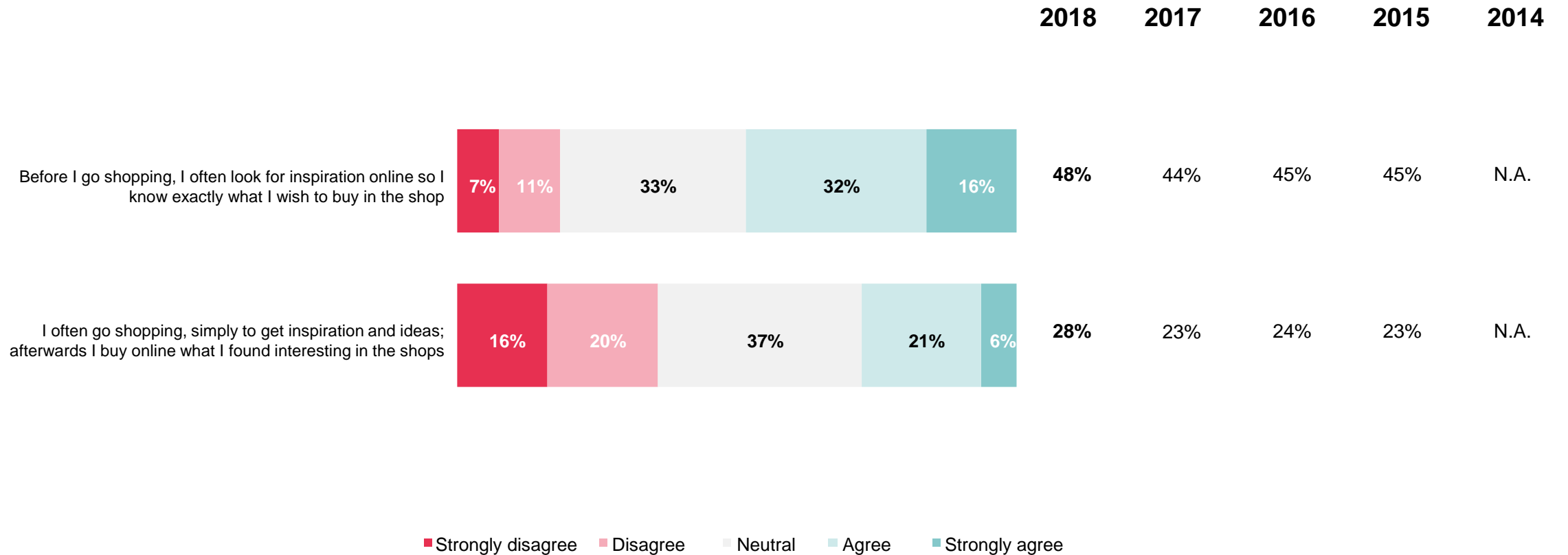
E-commerce trends & attitude

Difference

Q: To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the online website and the offline shop of the same chain?

Webrooming & showrooming occur more frequently, showing importance of cross channel in practice

% Top 2 (agree/strongly agree)



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ADDENDUM

**for commerce
and services**

List of categories (1)

Books & Ebooks

- Books
- EBooks

Entertainment

- Music on external carrier -e.g. CD, DVD, Blu-ray, etc.
- Digital music -e.g. mp3, etc.
- Music via online streaming services -e.g. Spotify, etc.
- Video -e.g. film, series, etc. on external carrier -e.g. CD, DVD, Blu-ray, etc.
- Digital video -e.g. film, series, etc.
- Video -e.g. film, series, etc. via online streaming services -e.g. Netflix, Stieve, etc.
- Games on external carrier -e.g. games for console, computer, etc.
- Digital games -e.g. paying games on smartphone, etc.
- Games via online streaming services
- Game consoles and accessories

Computers & Electronics

- Computer / laptop
- Computer hardware -e.g. printer, external hard drive, etc.
- Computer software
- Television
- Photo cameras and video recorders
- Household appliances -e.g. iron, Hoover, microwave oven, etc.
- Electronics for personal car -e.g. electric toothbrush, razor, etc.
- Tablet
- Smartphone
- Tablet or smartphone accessories -e.g. charger, cover, etc.
- Other 'smart devices' -e.g. activity tracker, smart watch, e-reader, etc.

Telecom

- Telecom services -e.g. internet connection, prepaid card, etc.

Fashion

- Clothing
- Shoes
- Jewellery
- Leathers and bags -e.g. handbag, suitcase, sports bag, etc.
- Glasses -e.g. reading glasses, sun glasses etc.
- Other fashion accessories -e.g. watches, belts, scarves, etc. (NEW)

Toys & Hobbies

- Toys -inside and outside
- Dress-up clothes and party articles -e.g. carnival
- Hobby materials -e.g. painting, etc.
- Office supplier -e.g. paper, office material, etc.

Home

- Large pieces of furniture -e.g. sofa, bed, etc.
- Small pieces of furniture -e.g. side table, small cupboard, etc.
- Home decoration -e.g. candles, textiles, etc.
- Cooking material -e.g. pots, pans, etc.

Note: in the survey we refer to 'products & services' of these categories. For some categories this is made explicit (eg music streaming service), for others not (eg car rental services). The list of (sub)categories is revised every year.

List of categories (2)

DIY & Garden

- Tools -e.g. sawing machine, hammer, etc.
- Other DIY materials -e.g. wood, electrical cables, etc.
- Garden decoration -e.g. garden furniture, decoration articles, etc.
- Garden maintenance -e.g. lawn mower, maintenance products, etc.
- Flowers, plants, etc.

Food

- General food -supermarket
- Prepared food -e.g. takeaway, catering, etc.
- Meal packs, delivered in box -unprepared

Pralines

- Chocolates
- Chocolate tablets/bars (NEW)
- Other sweets (NEW)
- Chocolate figurines (e.g. Easter eggs, Valentine hearts etc.) (NEW)

Health & beauty

- Personal care products -e.g. hair products, creams, etc.
- Make-up and perfume
- Health products -e.g. food supplements, lenses, etc.
- Pharmaceutical products -not on prescription

Sport

- Sports clothing
- Sports shoes
- Sports accessories -e.g. halters, swimming floaters, etc.
- Sports Electronics

Animals

- Food products
- Toys and accessories

Travel & Leisure

- Travel tickets -e.g. airplane, boat, train, bus, etc.
- Taxi and other transport services -e.g. taxi, car sharing, etc.
- Hotel/ overnigher bookings
- Restaurant bookings
- Tickets to events -e.g. festival, concerts, etc.
- Tickets to leisure time centers -e.g. cinema, fun fair, museum, etc.

Transportation

- Car
- Motorbike
- Bicycle

Financial products

- Bank products -e.g. current account, savings account, investment product...
- Travel assistance or cancellation insurance
- Other insurances -e.g. fire, vehicle, life, pension scheme...

Note: in the survey we refer to 'products & services' of these categories. For some categories this is made explicit (eg music streaming service), for others not (eg car rental services). The list of (sub)categories is revised every year.

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