

Consumers likely to buy less online from China due to tax increase

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In 2019, 39% of goods bought online internationally were purchased from China, 14% from the US, 10% from the UK and 9% from Germany, according to the 2019 edition of the IPC Cross-Border E-Commerce Shopper survey.

When looking at the evolution of the main e-commerce exporting countries between 2016 and 2019, it is notable that after China's sharp growth from 2016 to 2018, there is almost no change in 2019. China's share increased by 7% in 2017 and by a slightly more moderate 3% in 2018 – however, in 2019 it stabilised. The other four largest countries have also remained steady over the past two years.

 Origin of e-commerce

behaviour

Respondents who had made a purchase from China in the past year were asked what they would do if online purchases from China increased by €10 per item. This new question was asked in anticipation of European Union changes to VAT and customs legislation for low-cost items coming from China, and also to reflect possible higher postal delivery costs for future Chinese purchases.

Thirty-six percent of respondents said they would stop buying from China altogether, 41% would buy slightly less from China, and 13% would have no change to their purchase activity.

Top four e-retailers account for bulk of cross-border e-commerce

Overall, the most popular e-retailers for cross-border purchases were Amazon (25%), Alibaba (20%), eBay (14%) and Wish (11%). The majority (86%) of cross-border parcels weighed up to 2kg and 44% of goods purchased cross-border cost less than €25.

Legislative changes may affect consumer

Based on the 41 markets surveyed, Amazon, Alibaba / AliExpress, eBay and Wish accounted for 70% of the most recent cross-border e-commerce items purchased.

Amazon was most common in Luxembourg (69%), Austria (59%), Japan (52%) and Canada (49%), while Alibaba / AliExpress was most popular in Russia (74%), Turkey (64%) and Lithuania (55%). eBay was highest in Australia (45%), Cyprus (43%) and the UK

(35%), while Wish was most common in Hungary (29%), Brazil (27%) and Sweden (25%).

The [2019 edition of the IPC Cross-Border E-commerce Shopper Survey](#) reached over 35,700 consumers in 41 different countries across North & South America, Asia Pacific and Europe, confirming itself as the largest-ever global consumer survey, focusing on cross-border e-commerce.