



Yorkshire Business & Retail Action Group

Latest Figures on the Cost to Society

The latest figures of the cost to society by shop thieves is due to be updated soon, you may like to know what it costs society in general, never mind you the retailer who faces the costs of losses from your bottom line!

The total cost to society of shop thieves is a massive £3.442 billion (equivalent to £115.91 for every UK taxpayer).

Retail Futures 2018 forecasts that by 2018:

- Total store numbers will fall by 22%, from 281,930 today to 220,000 in 2018.
- Job losses could be around 316,000 compared to today
- The share of online retail sales will rise from 12.7% (2012) to 21.5% by 2018 or the end of the decade.
- There will be a further 164 major or medium-sized companies going into administration, involving the loss of 22,600 stores and 140,000 employees. Many of these companies will survive but at the cost of closing more than half their stores.
- In spite of the Portas Pilots, the High Street will continue to suffer: around 41% of town centres will lose 27,638 stores in the next five years.

A high proportion of retail closures and job losses are through a direct result of theft in all its forms from direct shoplifting to collusion and fraud.

So the Most-Shoplifted List is Very Long Indeed.

This list focuses more on general categories that suffer heavy loss rather than specific product lines.

1. Alcohol, mainly well-known spirits, particularly whisky, vodka, with rum-based spirits becoming more important as they become more popular. Beer and cider are also stolen from shops.
2. Cosmetics, perfume, makeup, lotions, hair treatment, shampoo, skin creams, and sun-tan lotion.
3. Razor/ shaving requisites: this has been the No. 1 for many years but is now losing its place because of new security systems and display limitation.
4. Clothing accessories, handbags, leather goods, earrings, scarves, etc: often small expensive and very desirable things.
5. Coffee (in other countries, coffee and tea).
6. Meat and cheese. There is growing interest in the more expensive cheese such as parmesan.
7. Electrical goods, electrical accessories like headphones, computer mouse(s?), data sticks, electrical health & Beauty (shavers, toothbrushes), electronic medical equipment, batteries of all kinds.
8. Smartphones, iPhones
9. Jeans, branded items, childrenswear, men and women's clothing
10. Sport fashion, branded items, trainers/sports shoes, club strips.
11. Electronic games and gaming devices.
12. Vitamins, self-medication, diet products.
13. Watches and jewellery.

YBRAG keeps all its members up to date with current trends and how to combat the opportunist to organised gangs attacking you and your livelihood.