

Apparel and Footwear in Australia

December 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Apparel and footwear impacted by challenging economic conditions in 2024

Market polarisation, DEI and sustainability emerge as key trends in 2024

Mergers and disruptive DTC models shape competitive landscape

E-commerce continues to evolve in Australia, responding to consumer demand and shaping trends that echo across the industry

What next for apparel and footwear?

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Childrenswear in Australia

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2024 DEVELOPMENTS

Households with young children and mortgages limit discretionary spending

Shrinking consumer spending translates into challenging conditions in local market

Fashionable collaborations boost brand loyalty and ensure they remain top of mind

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PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Extensive physical presence of leading brands facilitates omnichannel strategies

Australian brand collaboration to nurture youth emotional wellbeing

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Digital transformation within womenswear ensures seamless customer experience

PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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KEY DATA FINDINGS

2024 DEVELOPMENTS

Polarisation evident within men's jeans, while premiumisation characterises the women's segment

Competitive landscape subject to volatility as cross-category headwinds hit

Evolution of e-commerce leads to emergence of grey market drop-shipping

PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Sustainability to continue on its journey into mainstream jeans

Standard and economy women's jeans set to experience competitive transformation

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Hosiery in Australia

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2024 DEVELOPMENTS

Australians replenish their collections of daily wardrobe essentials

Competitive landscape features mix of private label, specialists, global sports brands and fast fashion

Generation Z and millennials debate 2024's sock trends on social media

PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Private label poised to be cost-effective solution in the face of economic uncertainty

Natural and alternative fibres are cornerstones of sustainability, yet the journey towards a circular economy will continue over the forecast period Hosiery to be challenged by frugality and practicality in purchasing decisions, leading to distribution channel shift

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Footwear in Australia

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2024 DEVELOPMENTS

Redirected discretionary spending and shifting distribution impact performance of footwear

Sportswear brands and major events heavily influence footwear in Australia

Local fashion footwear brands gain attention for sustainability and considered design

PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Sports-inspired footwear likely to help drive growth, as reimagined aesthetic of vintage styles proves popular

Direct-to-consumer dialogue to be facilitated by physical and virtual retail touchpoints

Handcrafted and durable high-quality footwear is sustainable antidote to fast fashion

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Sportswear in Australia

KEY DATA FINDINGS

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Sportswear in Australia continues its strong performance in 2024

Competition for incumbents as challengers record strong performances

"Fashion Olympics" turn heads in Paris, while local fans emulate their favourite sporting stars through replica sportswear capsule collections

PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Future demand likely to be driven by fashion, fandom and functionality

Economic landscape poses significant challenges to category's value growth

Australian enviro-tech startup partners with global athleisure giant to help shape the future of nylon recycling

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