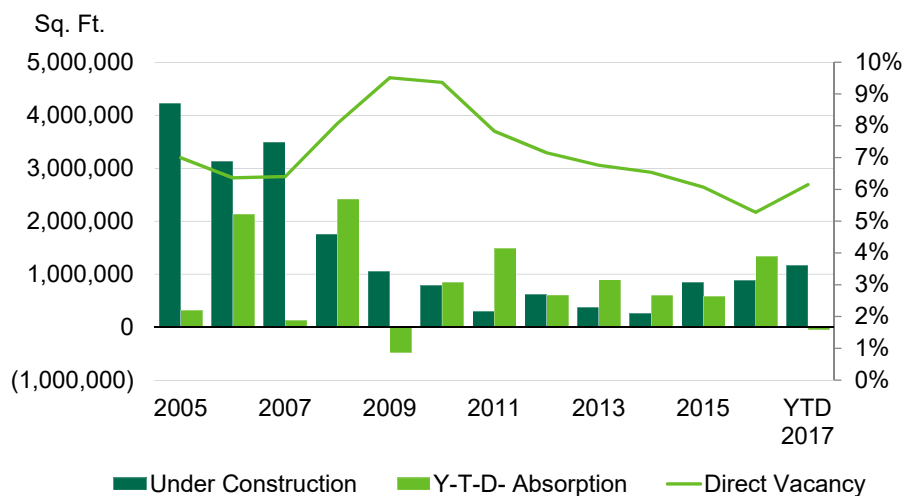




What's really happening in  
the retail market?

## DENVER RETAIL SUPPLY AND DEMAND

### Denver's Strong Retail Fundamentals



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Source: CBRE Research, 2017; Econometric Advisors, 2017.

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## RETAIL CLOSURES & BANKRUPTCIES

### WHY SO MANY CLOSURES AND BANKRUPTCIES?

- Reduced consumer spending since recession
- Consumers less attached to "brand"
- Crowded categories (many players with insufficient differentiation in value proposition; ie: American Eagle vs. Aeropostale)
- Retailers must go omnichannel to compete; but not all players had the \$ or strategy to shoulder the high costs...
- And in order to invest in e-comms, retailers are looking to cut costs elsewhere...(real estate)

### IS THIS REALLY NEW?

- Retail as a structurally cyclical business: "The question is not *if* a retailer will fail; it's *when!*"
- Much less room for mediocrity today than ever before (in business models, strategy, financials, and value proposition/differentiation)
- Who will survive?
  - Those with a differentiated product offer
  - Those who figure out how to do omnichannel **profitably**

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## NEW FACES TO DENVER RETAIL



CBRE  
Source: CBRE Research, 2017.

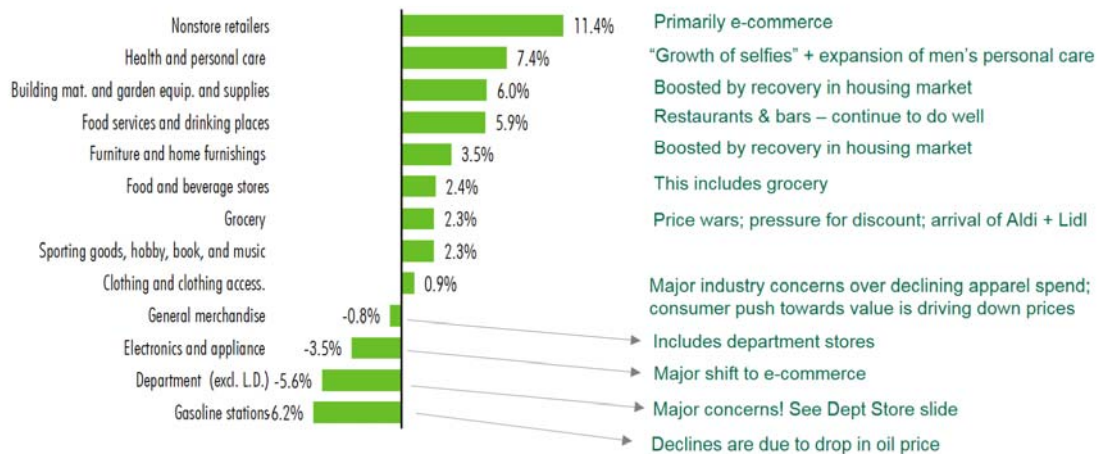
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## CATEGORY PERFORMANCE

U.S. RETAIL SALES GROWTH BY CATEGORY  
(2016 VS. 2015)

### COMMENTARY



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## RETAILERS: WINNING VS. CHALLENGED CATEGORIES

### CHALLENGED

#### DEPARTMENT STORES

#### MID-RANGE BRANDS

WHY: consumers trading up and/or down in value

PLAYERS: Aeropostale, Macy's/JCP/Sears, Abercrombie, etc.

#### LUXURY

WHY: Strong USD; millennials (no \$, less into luxury logos, prefer experience over goods)

DISRUPTION: delayed rise of online, rise in consignment + off-price

#### APPAREL

WHY: consumers buying less clothes; consumers pushing towards value and discount; high e-comms penetration is squeezing profit margins (see e-commerce slide)

DISRUPTORS: rise of renting (Rent the Runway) and consignment (ThredUp, Real Real)

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### WINNERS

#### OFF-PRICE & DISCOUNT

WHY: consumer shift to bargains & value since recession; here to stay

PLAYERS: TJX, Ulta Beauty, Ross, Dollar General, etc.

#### HEALTH & BEAUTY

WHY: expansion of men's & women's personal care + rise of the selfie?

PLAYERS: Ulta Beauty, Sephora, (Barnes & Noble adding make-up!)

#### FOOD & BEVERAGE (BUT...)

WHY: consumer shift towards eating out; rise of fast-casual

BUT...definite crowding in the fast casual and casual dining space; competition increasing  
AND...big role of private equity

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## SPOTLIGHT ON TWO KEY CATEGORIES

### DEPARTMENT STORES...WHAT HAPPENED!?

- Rise of **discount and off-price** retailing (ie, T.J.Maxx, Target)
- **Lack of agility** in business models + leadership; waited too late to adapt to changing consumer tastes
- **Weak financial/operational** structures (in some cases) inhibited ability to re-invest
- **E-commerce** = the straw that broke the camel's back...

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### GROCERY STORES

- **Low-margin** business (this is key!)
- **Price wars:** consumer flight to value is putting pressure on grocers to reduce prices (ie, Whole Foods 365)
- **E-commerce** has been low...but likely to rise with order online/pick-up in-store
- **Winners:** Sprouts, Krogers; Wal-Mart
- **Disruptors:**
  - Arrival of international, discount entrants (LIDL + Aldi)
  - Amazon (Amazon Go)

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## E-COMMERCE & OMNICHANNEL

### NOT EXACTLY THE E-POCALYPSE...

- Ecomms = 8.5% of total retail sales
- But 51% of online sales go to brick-and-mortar brands...
- ...so pure-play e-tailers account for <4% of total retail sales
- Internet sales are an increasing source of brick and mortar brands' revenues

### CONSUMERS WANT OMNICHANNEL

- Consumers prefer shopping *across* channels for a single transaction
- So even if they don't make the purchase in the store, the store plays a critical role in the shopping decision
- Several retailers have reported online sales in a market will drop if they close a store

### THE REAL CHALLENGE IS FULFILLMENT COSTS

- High cost of delivery
- Even higher cost of returns (online return rate > in-store)
- Traditional retailer logistics not built for online fulfillment
- So retailers are having to make significant investments to adjust
- This is the main reason profit margins are declining
- Very few players do e-commerce profitably
- Note: Amazon LOSES money on its retail business

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THANK YOU

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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