

E-SHOPPER BAROMETER 2023

BELGIUM REPORT





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (1/2)

1. E-commerce in Belgium - rather stable in 2023

- Slightly more Belgian e-shoppers in 2023 than in 2022
- While the share of regular e-shoppers tends to mildly decrease in 2023, they still represent almost half of e-shoppers.
- They receive more monthly parcels this year (5.1 vs 4.2 in 2022), but their online purchases account for less in their overall shopping.
- They overall purchase online as many categories as last year, with more beauty and health care products.
- Belgian regular e-shoppers are even more convinced by e-commerce this year, which reduces the stress of shopping and saves time.

2. Belgian regular e-shoppers are more price sensitive than before

- With the high inflation, their level of price sensitivity is getting higher in 2023:
 - 64% of regulars claim that price is the most important factor when buying.
 - Free delivery is even more important driver than before, and pricerelated online purchase dissuasive effects are as important as before.

3. Usage of C2C platforms and e-shopping through social media is still very high in Belgium

- As in 2022, 76% of regular e-shopper claim that they use C2C platforms for buying or selling products, and almost 3 in 10 Belgian regular e-shoppers claim they have increased their second-hand product purchases.
- Yet, C2C platform users are less likely to use these new e-commerce methods to only sell products, and also buy less frequently than before.
- For those who purchase secondhand products, economic reason comes first above all.
- For sellers, freeing up space at home, selling products in good condition and saving/earning money remain the top drivers.
- As observed last year, social networks continue to be widely used for shopping purposes (by 6 out of 10 regular e-shoppers using social networks), yet slightly less than the European average. Almost half of them use it to find inspiration, to get information, and to buy directly.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2/2)

4. The perception of online purchase and delivery experiences is back on a positive track in 2023

- The downward trend of the last 2 years has reversed. Return, delivery and online purchase are perceived as easier as in the past, although without reaching the level of 2019 yet.
- Belgian regulars who found their last online purchase difficult mainly evoke issues related to payment process and hosting website/app.
- Regarding delivery, high effort perception is mainly linked to delay in the delivery or a delivery that happened at another moment or place than expected, or the lack of information about the parcel.
- In this context, knowing the delivery company remains very important to Belgian regulars to be reassured, but also to choose one they know and trust.
- 18% of Belgian regular e-buyers returned their last purchase. Although an upward trend towards the easiness of the process this year, the return process is still perceived as difficult by about 4 regulars out of 10, mainly because of the return process itself (having to go far away, having to repack the parcel, to print the return coupon, frustration to return a product bought...).
- In terms of delivery places, home delivery remains #1 delivery place used by Belgian regulars, followed by parcel shop delivery.

5. A stable situation as well among the online heavy buyers "The Aficionados"

- This specific group of e-shoppers still e-buy many products categories (almost 8) and received a high number of parcels in the last month (7.0 parcels), higher than the European average.
- They are as price sensitive as last year, at a similar level compared to Belgian regulars. But less of them are willing to pay a premium for green products, which could be a consequence of the high price increase observed over the last 18 months.
- Aficionados' perception of online purchase and delivery experience is less positive than the regulars: they tend to put more effort in delivery, return and their last purchase, compared to the regulars.
 - 56% of Aficionados claim their last delivery was easy
 - 58% claim their last online purchase was easy
 - 43% claim their parcel return was effortless



E-SHOPPER BAROMETER 2023

METHODOLOGY

Sample

18+ y.o. European e-shoppers who have ordered physical goods online since January and then, received at least one parcel, identified within a sample representative of the national population in age, gender, and SEC.

For the consolidated results at European level, a weight was applied to each country in order to reflect the right proportion of e-shoppers between the European countries.

Key targets

• Regular e-shoppers:

E-shoppers aged 18 to 70 years old, who buy at least one product category every month online.

• Aficionados:

15% of the total e-shoppers with the highest number of annual online purchases.





E-SHOPPER BAROMETER 2023

METHODOLOGY

Data collection

- Online data collection (blind: interviewees do not know who requested the study)
- 24,233 interviews across 22 European countries (unweighted)
- Number of interviews per country (unweighted):

Austria:	1,005	Germany:	1,506	Portugal:	1,006
Belgium:	1,003	Hungary:	1,014	Romania:	1,015
Bulgaria:	1,014	Ireland:	1,003	Slovakia:	1,009
Croatia:	808	Italy:	1,504	Slovenia:	809
Czech	1.035	Latvia:	806	Spain:	1,502
Republic:		Lithuania:	804	Switzerland:	1,009
Estonia: France:	801 1,501	Netherlands: Poland:	00.	UK:	1,502

Fieldwork

Fieldwork conducted from May 31st to July 19th, 2023





LEGEND FOR EVOLUTIONS

Significant differences

between 2023 and 2022 / 2021 scores are shown as follows (at 95% confidence rate)

when positive :	+XX 🔺 vs 2022 +XX 🔺 vs 2021
when negative :	-XX ▼ vs 2022 -XX ▼ vs 2021

with +/- xx the number of points difference vs. 2023.

No arrows if no significant difference.





HOW IS E-COMMERCE EVOLVING IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT?

THROUGH REGULAR E-SHOPPERS

1. How is e-commerce evolving in the current context?

- **2.** To what extent has inflation impacted e-shopping?
- **3.** What are the main trends of delivery?

4. Appendix





HOW IS E-COMMERCE EVOLVING IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT?

- More e-shoppers but decreasing share of regulars and purchases made by them.
- Yet, regulars received more parcels than last year.
- A steady share of regular e-shoppers is using C2C platforms, although less of them are selling on those platforms and they buy less frequently on them.



E-COMMERCE KEY TRENDS IN SCORECARD

Despite an increase in the number of e-shoppers in Belgium, the share of regulars tends to decrease along with the share of their online shopping. Yet, regulars who still buy online in 2023 are heavier buyers.



average

GEOPOS

12

REGULAR E-SHOPPERS POPULAR CATEGORIES

As in 2022, they e-buy, on average, more than 5 different product categories. More regular e-shoppers are buying beauty & health care products online in 2023.

% - TOP 10 types of goods purchased online since January



REGULAR E-SHOPPERS' IMAGE OF E-SHOPPING

E-commerce is increasingly perceived as more convenient, stressless and time saving.





AFICIONADOS STILL DRIVE E-COMMERCE MOMENTUM

The share of online shopping of the Aficionados is also experiencing this downward trend, as the regulars. Aficionados tend to have more parcels delivered in 2023 vs. 2022, which means that they increased even more their offline purchases.



58% 2022 2021	21.1% 2022 2021
58% – ⁽⁸⁸⁾ 58% of all online purchases made by the Aficionados	18.3% 21.3% Average share of online shopping (in total shopping – average of all categories)
6.0 2022 6.9 2021	Last purchase preparation
7.0 + (5.1) 7.2 number of parcel received last month	27% 29% Sudden impulse
	XX European average



15

AFICIONADOS POPULAR CATEGORIES



Aficionados bought the same number of product categories as in 2022, e-buying more Beauty & Health Care products this year. The Aficionados are heavier buyers of all products compared to the regulars, excepting Fashion and books.

% - TOP 10 types of goods purchased online since January





C2C PLATFORM USAGE & SOCIAL MEDIA SHOPPING

More than 7 in 10 Belgian regulars are using C2C platforms to buy or sell. Yet, less Belgian regulars are using C2C platforms to sell products, compared to 2022. And they are less frequent buyers than before.



REGULAR E-SHOPPERS

ONLINE SHOPPING BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS

More than 7 out of 10 Belgian regulars are using C2C platforms to buy or sell. Less Belgian regulars are using C2C platforms to sell products, compared to 2022.



M10. Do you buy and/or sell on second-hand platforms (online platforms where individuals, mostly private but sometimes running small businesses, can buy and sell their own goods, often second-hand; e.g. Depop, Ebay etc.)?

ate but sometimes running average
Question added in 2022, no comparison vs. 2021

XX



C2C USERS PROFILE



XX

average

18

Significance test vs. 2022 only GEOPOST

REGULAR E-SHOPPERS BUYING PRODUCTS ON C2C PLATFORMS

C2C platform buyers represent more than half of the regulars. They buy less frequently than before, more of them buying less often than every 2 or 3 months.





European

average

GEOPOS⁻

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BUYING PRODUCTS ON C2C PLATFORMS

Saving money remains the #1 reason to purchase on C2C platforms. Supporting a more responsible economy comes after. The delivery they use is very diverse, no one really stands out.





European

average

ХΧ

M11. When you buy on second-hand platforms (e.g. Depop, Ebay etc.), how do you usually choose to be delivered?

M13. And why do you buy on second-hand platforms (e.g. Depop, Ebay etc.)? Question added in 2022, no comparison vs. 2021

REGULAR E-SHOPPERS SELLING PRODUCTS ON C2C PLATFORMS

Less Belgian regulars sell on C2C platforms this year. Their main motivation remain the same though: first, to free up space; second, they have items in good condition that they want to get rid of, followed by earning extra money.





GEOPOS

ONLINE PURCHASE HABITS & ATTITUDES

C2C users profile is very close to the regulars' one, as they represent 7 out of 10 of the regulars.

Top 7 Categories

- 1. Fashion **58%**
- 2. Shoes **55%**
- 3. Beauty & Health care **48%**
 - 4. Books **36%**
 - 5. Medicine 36%
 - 6. Leisure **34%**
 - 7. High-tech/Electronics **30%**

Attitudes specificities vs. regular e-shoppers

(biggest significant gaps vs. regular e-shoppers on % agree & strongly agree)

NO SIGNIFICANT GAP VS. REGULAR E-SHOPPERS

+4 vs. regular e-shoppers +4 vs. 2022

6.3

46 45

5.8

Annual number of purchases

Different types of

goods bought since

January on average

/!\ No significance test on median



all categories)







24

N=368

C14;D15;C16new

DELIVERY PLACES & PREFERENCES

Delivery at home remains the first delivery place for C2C users, followed by parcel shop delivery. In terms of delivery services, it is important to them to receive real time information and to have several delivery options.





average



SHOPPING THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA (AMONG SOCIAL MEDIA USERS)

Shopping through social networking is a common practice of Belgian regulars. Their use are multiple, finding inspiration and information being the top ones.



Question added in 2022, no comparison vs. 2021



GEOPOS



TO WHAT EXTENT HAS INFLATION IMPACTED E-SHOPPERS?

- Regular e-shoppers' price sensitivity is increasing in 2023
- Free delivery is an increasing driver for online shopping
- The Aficionados are as price sensitive as before, yet a lower willingness to pay a price premium for green products







27

ATTITUDE TOWARDS PRICE

Belgian regulars are even more price sensitive than before, price being the most important factor in their purchasing decisions for almost 2 / 3 of them.



ONLINE PURCHASE DRIVERS

Among drivers of online purchase, price-related criteria are the top drivers for Belgian regulars. Free delivery matters even more than before.

Top 10 important criteria when buying online % - (out of 25 criteria)

Items ranked as 1st, 2nd or 3rd most important





Biggest evolutions vs. 2022 (apart from TOP10)

4% Presence of the live chat support to provide real time answers (before during or after purchase) $_{-5}$





Bad opinion of fellow shoppers now becomes the 1st barrier that would prevent Belgian regular e-shoppers from buying online.

DISSUASIVE EFFECTS

Top 10 features that prevent the most from buying online % - (out of 16 criteria)

Items ranked as 1st, 2nd or 3rd most important

REGULAR E-SHOPPERS



Biggest evolutions vs. 2022 (apart from TOP10) 3% Lack of environmentally friendly delivery options -4 ▼







REGULAR E-SHOPPERS

FOREIGN VS. LOCAL

More than 7 out of 10 Belgian regular are buying on foreign websites; price is a key driver for doing so.







C6 – Have you ever bought online from foreign websites? Rq: We define a foreign website as a website having a different domain name than your local one and/or a website being in a foreign language. C8 – What were the reasons for you to make purchases from foreign websites?

Base: People that have already bought online from foreign websites Rg: Several answers allowed

REGULAR E-SHOPPERS PURCHASES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Belgian regulars first buy on websites from France and the Netherlands, their neighbouring countries, but also from China, which is now in the Top 3.





C7 – From which countries? Base: People that have already bought online from foreign websites (n=359) Rq: We define a foreign website as a website having a different domain name than your local one and/or a website being in a foreign language.



ZOOM ON THE PRICE SENSITIVE E-BUYERS

Price sensitive e-buyer has been defined as a regular e-shopper which showed price sensitivity by making price the most important factor when purchasing.

• %TB "Price is the most important factor in my purchasing decisions"

N=99 (weighted)



REGULAR PRICE SENSITIVE E-BUYERS PROFILE



vs. regular e-shoppers (xx) at 95% confidence rate Significance test vs. 2022 only

GEOPOST

ONLINE PURCHASE HABITS & ATTITUDES

Unsurprisingly, discounts and good deals are more important to price sensitive e-buyers. They are also more likely to find online shopping more convenient than the regulars.

6.0 5.9

Different types of goods bought since January on average

Top 7 Categories

1.	Fashion 65%	59%
2.	Shoes 53%	51%
3.	Beauty & Health care 50%	50%
4.	Medicine 40%	32%
5.	Leisure 36%	36%
~		070/

- 6. Accessories and jewellery **34%** 27%
- 7. Small home furniture & Decoration33%30%

flat vs. regular e-shoppers -6 vs. 2022 42 39 Annual number of purchases

/!\ No significance test on median



Average share of online shopping (on total shopping - average of all categories)

Attitudes specificities vs. regular e-shoppers

(biggest significant gaps vs. regular e-shoppers on % agree & strongly agree)

Positive 🕂

85%Shopping online allows me to save time (74)	86%
85% I am always on the lookout for a really good deal (66)	86%
83% Shopping online strongly reduces the stress of buying in stores (63)	74%
79% Shopping online is so convenient that I use it more and more, even if	
must return my purchases sometimes 65)	70%
76% Shopping online saves money (59)	75%
73% The online offer is as wide as what offline retailers offer (62)	63%
69% I look forward to big discount events, online or offline, (Black Friday,	
seasonal sales) (54)	67%
68% I actively look for reviews and ask for recommendations online	
before making a purchase (55)	66%
61% I can shop for nearly 100% of the products/services I need online (47)	64%

XX European average



DELIVERY PLACES & PREFERENCES

Delivery at home is the first delivery place for price-sensitive e-buyers as well. Having real time information on delivery matters for them a lot.



vs. regular e-shoppers (xx) at 95% confidence rate Significance test vs. 2022 only

GEOPOS'



ZOOM ON THE AFICIONADOS

The Aficionados are as much price sensitive as they were in 2022, but now less are willing to pay an extra for green products.



The Aficionados are as much price sensitive as they were in 2022. Inflation could have impacted the Aficionados' willingness to pay an extra for green products though.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS PRICE









ZOOM ON THE AFICIONADOS

Detailed description of the product 19 20 20

B1a - Among the selected criteria which is the most important for you when buying online? And the second, the third? 38 Rg: TOP 3 ranking on all answers given

700M ON THE AFICIONADOS

ONLINE PURCHASE DRIVERS

Among Aficionados' drivers of online purchase, the weight of price-related criteria remains stable as well. The presence of the live chat support is less important to them, as to regular e-shoppers.

36

23

17

10

8

13

9

12

12

Top 10 important criteria when buying online % -(out of 25 criteria)

Items ranked as 1st, 2nd or 3rd most important



Biggest evolutions vs. 2022 (apart from TOP10)

6% Presence of the live chat support to provide real time answers (before during or after purchase) _7

+ vs. regular e-shoppers (xx) at 95% confidence rate







GEOPOST

ZOOM ON THE AFICIONADOS **DISSUASIVE EFFECTS**



Bad opinion of fellow shoppers on social media remains the 1st barrier that would prevent Aficionados from buying online. Technical bugs on the website/app are an emerging barrier, as well as not knowing when they will get their parcel. .

Top 10 features that prevent the most from buying online % - (out of 16 criteria)



Biggest evolutions vs. 2022 (apart from TOP10)

No other evolution

🛉 💳 vs. regular e-shoppers (xx) at 95% confidence rate






700M ON THE AFICIONADOS **FOREIGN VS. LOCAL**



Like regular e-shoppers, most Aficionados buy from foreign websites to find better deals or products not available in their country. Compared to the regulars, more of them buy from foreign countries that they speak the language of.



67%

Reasons to make purchases from foreign websites % (n=121)



C6 - Have you ever bought online from foreign websites? Rq: We define a foreign website as a website having a different domain name than your local one and/or a website being in a foreign language.

Europea XX average GEOPOS

C8 - What were the reasons for you to make purchases from foreign websites?

Base: People that have already bought online from foreign websites Rg: Several answers allowed

REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regular e-shoppers still first choose the websites they trust. They are less and less influenced by traditional advertising when they e-buying.

Drivers when choosing a website/ an app-%



XX

average

GEOPOS⁻

C18 – When shopping online, how do you choose a website and/or an app? Rq: Several answers allowed C19 – Do you publish or give feedback, after purchasing?



WHAT ARE THE MAIN TRENDS OF DELIVERY?

- Belgian regular e-shoppers are 1st delivered at home, followed by parcel shop deliveries. Less than half of them use OOH delivery.
- Regular e-shoppers put less effort into delivery, return and purchase this year, and their overall satisfaction remains high.
- To note, they are less this year to return their parcels.

3.

GEOPOST

43

TOP DELIVERY PREFERENCES

Being informed on delivery in real time is becoming more important in 2023, being now the top expectation of Belgian regular e-shoppers, as their European peers. Next day delivery is also going up in the ranking.

Delivery preferences (importance index – average interest = 100)



C16new – What delivery options are important to you when choosing an online retailer? Please select one option that is THE MOST IMPORTANT, and another one that is the LEAST IMPORTANT to you.

Rg: Maxdiff module - the items are displayed 4 at a time on 8 different screens, each time the respondent selects the most and least important.



DELIVERY PREFERENCES

Belgian regular e-shoppers first delivery place is at home, followed by parcel shop delivery; 50% are using several delivery places. Their use of safe place as a delivery place is growing. Less than half of Belgian regulars are being delivered out of home.



GEOPOS⁻

D14. How much effort did you have to put into the delivery (e.g. tracking, picking up, receiving, etc...) of your last online purchase? C14. Where do you usually have your parcels delivered to?

OUT OF HOME USERS PROFILE



average

Significance test vs. 2022 only

ONLINE PURCHASE HABITS & ATTITUDES

In trend, OOH users buy more product categories than the regular e-buyers overall, and even more than in 2022.

59%

53%

35%

47%

38%

32%



Different types of goods bought since January on average





2. Shoes 59%

3. Beauty & Health care **54%** +16▲ 51% 4. Medicine 43%

5. Books 37%

6. Leisure **35%**

7. Fresh Food & Beverage **30%**



(biggest significant gaps vs. regular e-shoppers on % agree & strongly agree)

Positive 🕂

44% I buy more second-hand products these days (32)

Same as regular e-shoppers +3 vs. 2022

Annual number of purchases

/!\ No significance test on median



Average share of online shopping (on total shopping - average of all categories)





40%

IMPORTANCE OF DELIVERY SERVICES

Being informed about the exact 1-hour delivery timeslot and being able to choose the specific day/time of delivery remains important to most regular e-shoppers.



Consider that **knowing the exact 1-hour window/timeslot of their delivery** would make them more likely to purchase from a website /retailer/app (% agree & strongly agree)





Consider that the ability to **select the** day and exact 1-hour indow/timeslot in advance of their delivery would make them more likely to purchase from a website/retailer/app (% agree & strongly agree)

European

average



C17. Would knowing the exact 1-hour window/timeslot of your delivery make you more likely to purchase from a website/retailer/app? C17bis. Would the ability to select the day and exact 1-hour window/timeslot in advance of your delivery make you more likely to purchase from a website/retailer/app?

REGULAR E-SHOPPERS

USE OF DELIVERY SERVICES

The use of delivery services is stable in the last few years. 7 out of 10 Belgian regulars were notified via email or SMS for their last delivery.



G1 - Have you already used the following delivery services?

D10. On the day of delivery, did you receive an email or SMS notification to indicate you the approximate time your parcel will arrive?

DELIVERY COMPANY

In terms of delivery, the trust in the delivery company remains to be important, especially for peace of mind, preferences in delivery company and will to choose the one offering a good delivery service.





GEOPOST

D15. In your opinion, is it important to know who the delivery company will be, before finalizing the purchase?

D16. You said that for you it is important to know who the delivery company will be, before finalizing your purchase. Which of the following reasons apply to you? Base think that it is important to know

50 the delivery company before finalizing the purchase Rg: several answers allowed

GREEN DELIVERY ALTERNATIVES

Having the choice of environmentally friendly delivery alternatives is losing importance for Belgian regulars: half of them would consider that as an important purchase driver.

-10 -11		Delivery options perceived as environmentally friendly - %		
49%	Consider that having choice of environmentally friendly delivery alternatives is important when buying online	Delivery with low-emission vehicles A delivery where several products are combined and delivered together on the same day	43 41	50 45
	90% for transparent/complete delivery costs	Out of home delivery	32 +7 🔺	30
	85% for free delivery 80% for various options of place of delivery	Standard home delivery	25 +6	20
		Slow' delivery	19	19
		Next day delivery	12	12
54%	would be more likely to opt for a website/ retailer/ app that has	Same day delivery	- 12	11
64%	environmentally- friendly delivery options - %T2B	Delivery on an exact 1-hour window/timeslot of which you are informed or that you choose	12	11

Europear

GEOPOS

average

XX

B1. You will now see a list of criteria which may or may not be important to you when buying online. Which criteria are important for you? C16bis. Still thinking about the delivery, which of the following delivery options would you consider to be environmentally-friendly? C17ter. Would you be more likely to opt for a website/retailer/app that has environmentally-friendly delivery options?

EFFORT AND SATISFACTION VS. ONLINE PURCHASE

There is an upward trend in satisfaction on delivery, purchase effort and return, even if the perception of delivery effort remains below 2019 levels and the European average.







HIGH EFFORT INTO LAST PURCHASE ONLINE New 2023 AMONG BUYERS MAKING THE MOST EFFORT

Issues related to the purchase itself (payment process, hosting website/app), and contacting retailer customer service for assistance represent the most common issues encountered by the regulars e-shoppers.





HIGH EFFORT INTO DELIVERY AMONG BUYERS MAKING THE MOST EFFORT

In terms of delivery issues faced by regular e-shoppers, the most commons are related to a delay or issue in the delivery, as well as the need to contact customer service to get delivery information.







REGULAR E-SHOPPERS



RETURNS

Concerning parcel returns, less Belgian regulars returned their last parcel. And more than half found the return process as easy.





HIGH EFFORT INTO RETURN New 2023 AMONG BUYERS MAKING THE MOST EFFORT

There are many reasons why regular e-shoppers find the return not easy: having to travel a long way, having to re-pack, but also the late refund and frustration with the product which is not as expected.









ZOOM ON THE AFICIONADOS

Compared to the regulars, the Aficionados put more effort into purchase, delivery and return.



ZOOM ON THE AFICIONADOS

DELIVERY PREFERENCES



Belgian Aficionados tend to use a bit more delivery places than their regulars' counterparts, more of them being delivered at an alternative address and at work. Compared to the regulars, they are less to find the delivery easy.



C14. Where do you usually have your parcels delivered to?



EFFORT AND SATISFACTION VS. ONLINE PURCHASE

The Aficionados put more effort than the regular for purchase, delivery and return. However, they maintain a high and stable level of satisfaction about their last online purchase experience.





ZOOM ON THE AFICIONADOS

DELIVERY COMPANY



Knowing the delivery company remains important to most of Belgian Aficionados, and more than to regular e-shoppers, especially for reasons of peace of mind – even more important this year.



Reasons of importance to know the delivery company % (n=116)



...consider it **important** to know the delivery company

D15. In your opinion, is it important to know who the delivery company will be, before finalizing the purchase? D16. You said that for you it is important to know who the delivery company will be, before finalizing your purchase. Which of the following

reasons apply to you? Base :think that it is important to know the delivery company will be, before finalizing your purchase.

Rg: several answers allowed

XX European average

