



ROMANIA REPORT

# E-SHOPPER BAROMETER 2023

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (1/2)**

#### 1. E-commerce in Romania in 2023 – in decline after the boom in 2021

- As with the downward trend of European e-commerce, a decline is observed in Romania.
  - After the growth in 2021, the share of Romanian e-shoppers decreases over the past year (-4 pts in 2023).
  - However, the share of regular e-shoppers is in a positive trend.
     Regular e-shoppers account for more than half of e-shoppers and they received more parcels in the last month than in 2022.
- While Romanian regulars are smaller online buyers than their European peers in terms of frequency, they buy a wider set of product categories, purchasing more than 6 product categories in 2023. They purchase less overtime on the internet the category of high tech/electronics.
- Regular e-shoppers remain deeply convinced by the benefits of online shopping, even more than European average. Compared to 2021, however, they are less convinced of the convenience of online shopping.

## 2. Romanian regular e-shoppers keep being highly price sensitive

- Romanian regulars remain very price-sensitive, despite a decrease compared to 2021 two thirds of regulars consider that online shopping is a way to save money. Much less of them are open to pay a premium for green products or products / services that simplifies their life.
- Price-related criteria (free delivery) remain top motivators for online

- purchase. Having to pay delivery fees is a growing barrier that refrain from buying online this year.
- Romanian regular e-shoppers are widely purchasing online from abroad, to find good deals and locally unavailable products

# 3. Usage of C2C platforms and e-shopping through social media is evolving

- Usage of C2C platforms is a less developed habit for Romanian regulars than European average, but the trend shows a promising sign:
  - 6 out of 10 regular e-shoppers are buying and/or selling on C2C platforms, most of them buying and only a third are selling products.
  - The frequency of purchase from C2C buyers has increased this year.
- Economic reason remains one of the first driver of using these platforms:
  - For buyers: To save money
  - For sellers: To sell the unused items, free up space, and earn extra money.
- Social media are widely used for shopping purposes, by 9 out of 10 regular e-shoppers: First to find inspiration, and to buy directly, mainly from their acquaintances' recommendations.





#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2/2)**

## 4. The perception of online purchase and delivery experiences are stable in 2023

- The satisfaction towards delivery and last online purchase remain very well perceived, above the European average. Yet, it shows a slight downward trend in 2023. Their overall satisfaction remains high and stable.
- More than it is to their European peers, knowing the delivery company is crucial for Romanian regular e-shoppers in order that they are reassured, and they choose the company that offers good service.
- Steady situation with the returns:
  - 11% of regular e-buyers returned their last purchase, less than in 2021. They also are less to find the return process easy and effortless.
  - As a returning method, regulars especially let the carrier picking up the parcel at their home.
- In terms of delivery places, home delivery remains the dominant choice for Romanian regulars, but the usage of parcel lockers is growing overtime.

#### 5. The online heavy buyers, "The Aficionados", stand out in Romania

- This specific group of e-shoppers is receiving 6 parcels per month on average and is buying almost 10 different product categories online enjoying one the highest level in Europe.
- After a strong dynamic during Covid, then a lull in 2022, Aficionados show again a positive trend this year.
- As the regulars, they are highly price sensitive and even more bargain hunters than the regulars. On the other hand, they are highly open to pay a premium for green products or products / services that eases their life.
- They use more delivery places than the regular e-shoppers, more of them using OOH delivery places except parcel lockers and post office deliveries.
- The Aficionados remain satisfied with their last online purchase experience, they perceive their last online purchase and delivery as easy, even more than European Aficionados.



#### **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.





#### **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		Latvia:	806	Spain:	1,502
Republic:	1,035	Lithuania:	804	Switzerland:	1,009
Estonia:	801	Netherlands:	1,007	UK:	1,502
France:	1,501	Poland:	1,570		

#### 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)

+XX ▲ vs 2022

when **positive**:

when **negative**:

+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





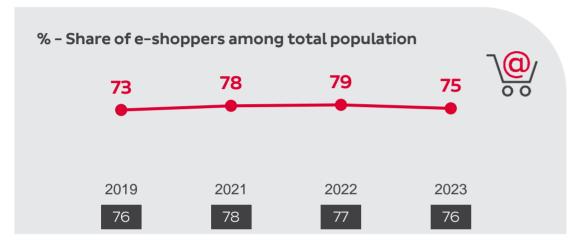
### **HOW IS E-COMMERCE EVOLVING IN THE CURRENT CONTEXT?**

- A decreasing share of e-shoppers in Romania, while the share of regulars is on a positive trend.
- Regular e-shoppers received more parcels this year, from the same number of categories than in 2022
- Aficionados are back on track in terms of number of parcels received
- Romanian regulars are heavy users of social media for shopping.



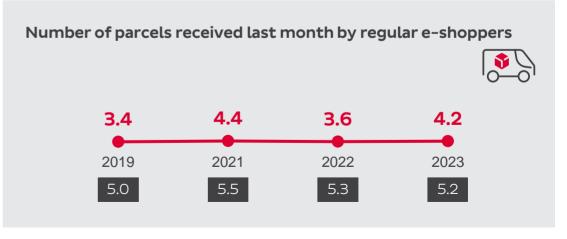
#### E-COMMERCE KEY TRENDS IN SCORECARD

After the increase in the number of Romanian e-shoppers in 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic, the trend has reversed this year. However, the share of regulars tends to increase vs. 2022, and they received more parcels than last year.









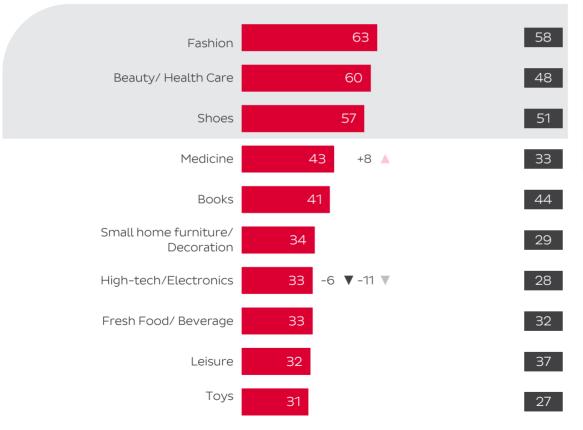


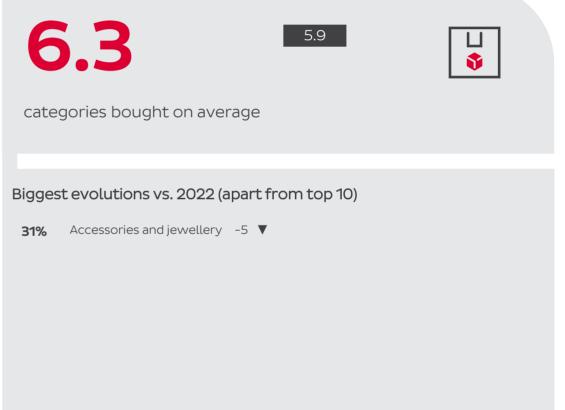


#### REGULAR E-SHOPPERS POPULAR CATEGORIES

Romanian regulars still buy 6 product categories on average, more than their European counterparts. Yet, in 2023, less bought high tech / electronics, accessories and jewelry online, opposite to the increasing trends for medicines.

#### % - TOP 10 types of goods purchased online since January

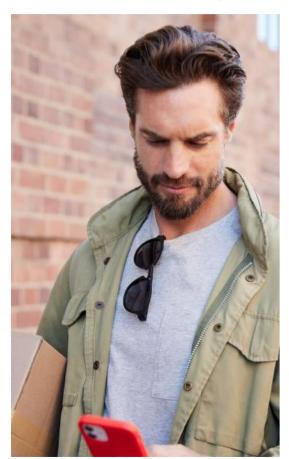






#### **REGULARS' IMAGE OF E-SHOPPING**

Regular e-shoppers keep being highly convinced by the benefits of e-shopping, though a bit less of them find online so convenient that they could buy more and more online.



"Shopping online strongly reduces the stress of buying in stores" - %T2B

71%



"Shopping online is so convenient that I use it more and more, even if I must return my purchases sometimes" - %T2B

68% <sub>-6</sub> v



"Shopping online allows me save time" - %T2B

81%



"I can shop for nearly 100% of the products/services I need online" - %T2B

63%

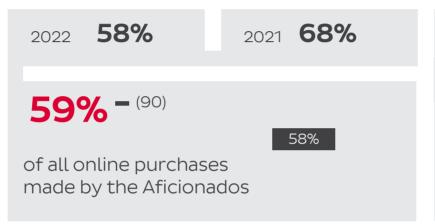


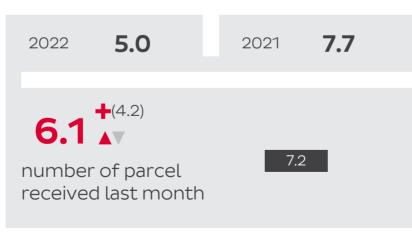
#### AFICIONADOS ONLINE PURCHASE HABITS AT A GLANCE

After a strong decrease observed in 2022, the share of Aficionados has stabilised in 2023 with a directionally positive trend overall. They received more parcels this year than last year although still below the European average (same

observation as for regulars).











Average share of online shopping (in total shopping – average of all categories)

#### Last purchase preparation

27%

29%

Sudden impulse (last purchase)

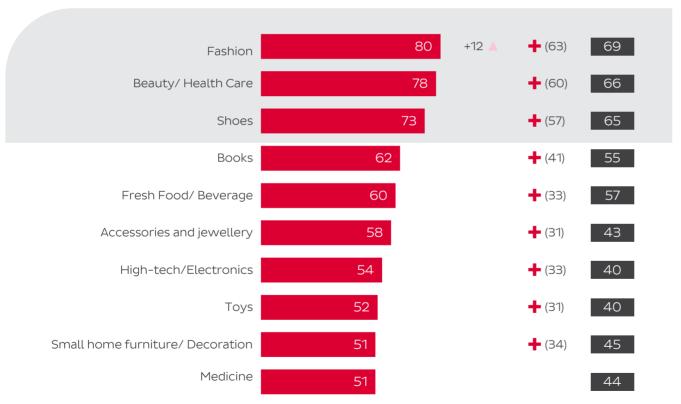


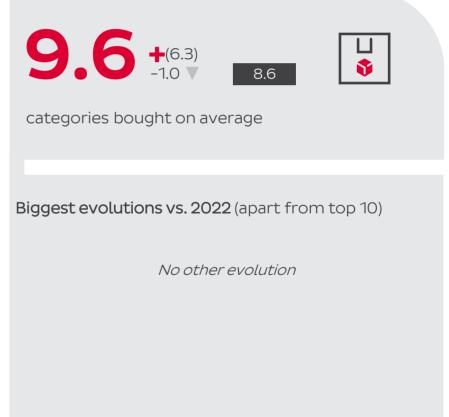
#### AFICIONADOS POPULAR CATEGORIES



In 2023, Aficionados continue to have a very diversified basket, slightly smaller than in 2021 but still higher than their European peers and keep developing their purchases around fashion products.

#### % - TOP 10 types of goods purchased online since January









# C2C PLATFORM USAGE & SOCIAL MEDIA SHOPPING

6 out of 10 Romanian regular e-shoppers are using C2C platforms. Although the lower usage level than their European peers, they use C2C platforms more frequently. Most of them are buyers, while only a third of Romanian regulars are using those platforms to sell products.

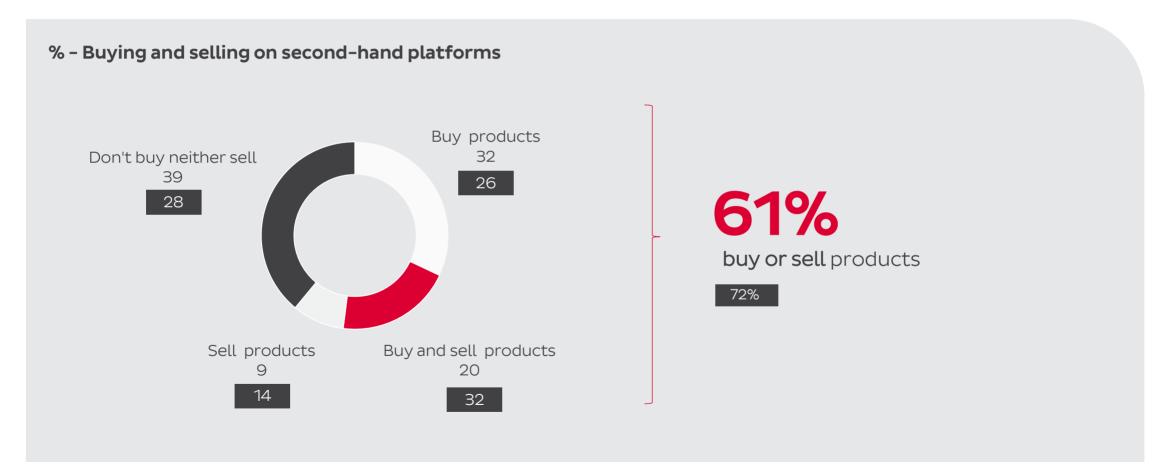
In parallel, almost 7 in 10 of Romanian regulars shop directly from social media, which is above the European average.





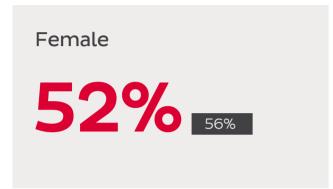
#### ONLINE SHOPPING BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS

6 out of 10 regular e-shoppers use CtoC platforms, either as buyers or as both as sellers and buyers. Romanian regulars are less to shop between individuals than their European.

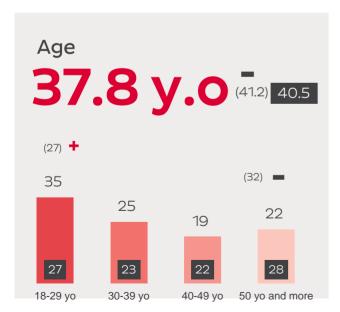


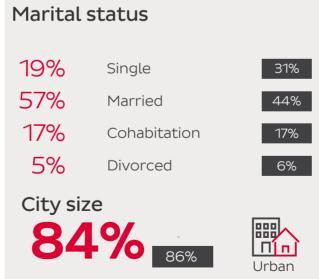


#### **C2C USERS PROFILE**





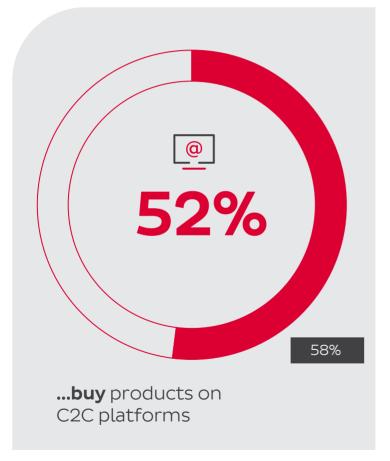






#### **BUYING PRODUCTS ON C2C PLATFORMS**

C2C platform buyers purchase more often than before, with almost 40% purchasing at least once a month. Yet, they purchase less frequently on these websites/apps than their European peers.





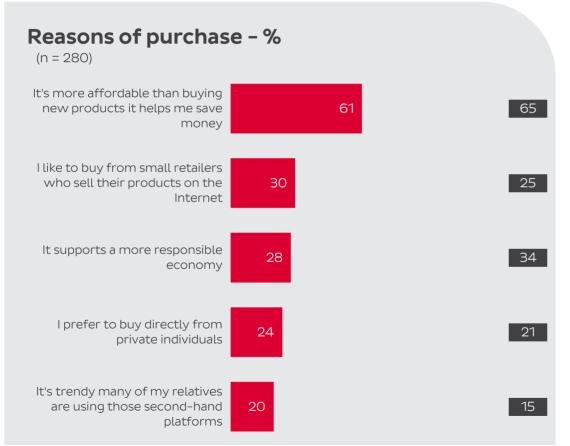


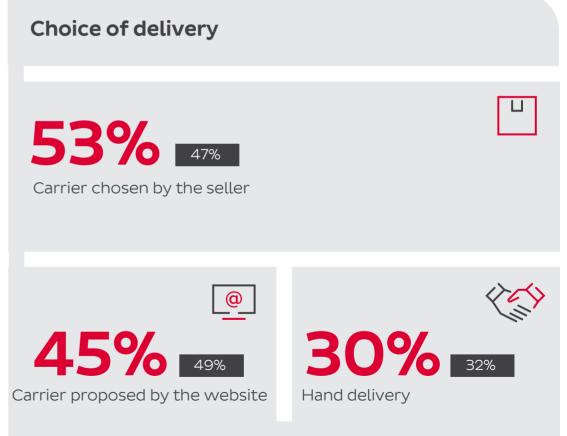




#### **BUYING PRODUCTS ON C2C PLATFORMS**

C2C usage is motivated by far by money saving benefits, followed by the intention of supporting small retailers. In Romania, more than half of CtoC buyers had the carrier chosen by the seller.



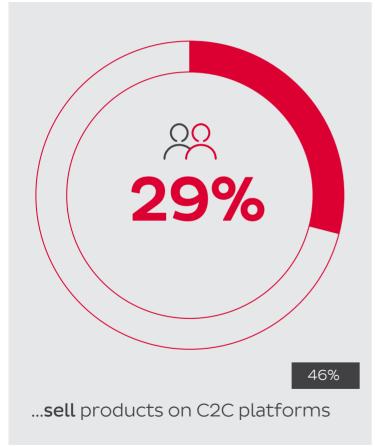


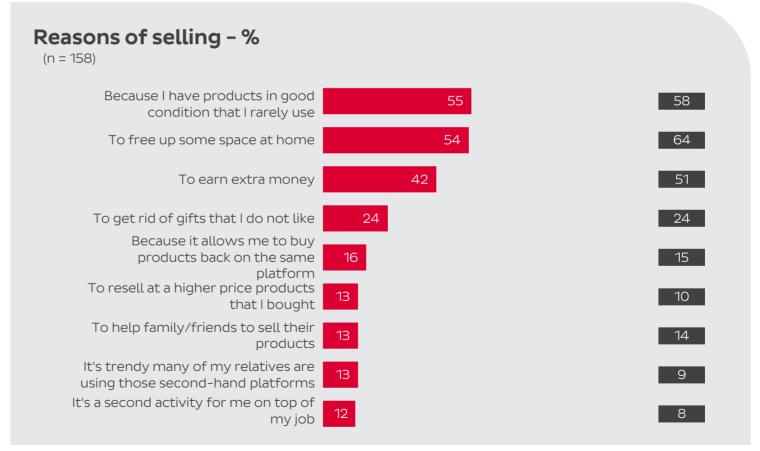




#### **SELLING PRODUCTS ON C2C PLATFORMS**

Selling products on C2C platforms is not a common habit for Romanian regulars: less than a third sell products on those websites / apps. Their main motivations to sell are because they have items in good condition, to free up space, and to earn extra money.











#### **ONLINE PURCHASE HABITS & ATTITUDES**

Compared to regulars, C2C users are more trend-savvy, more passionate about e-commerce and prepared to pay more for products that make their lives easier. They are heavier online buyers than the regulars overall.

6.7

European average 6.3

Different types of goods bought since January on average

Top 7 Categories		
1. Fashion	65%	59%
2. Shoes	59%	53%
3. Beauty/ Health Care	57%	48%
4. Books	40%	46%
5. Medicine	40%	34%
6. High- tech/Electronics	39%	30%
7. Toys	35%	30%

+6 vs Regular
-1 vs. 2022

48 Annual number of purchases

European average 45

/!\ No significance test on median

15.0% 15.7%

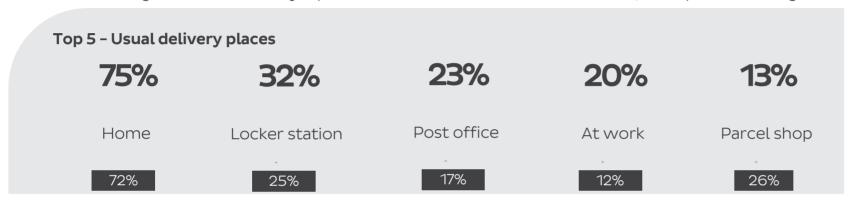
Average share of online shopping (on total shopping – average of all categories)

# Attitudes specificities vs. regular e-shoppers (biggest significant gaps vs. regular e-shoppers on % agree & strongly agree) Positive 57% Relative to other people I have more passion about e-shopping 45% It is very important for me to buy trendy brands Once I find a brand that satisfies me I usually don't experiment with new ones' (35) 33% 42% I buy more second-hand products these days 1'm ready to pay a price premium for services that make my life easier (29) 37%



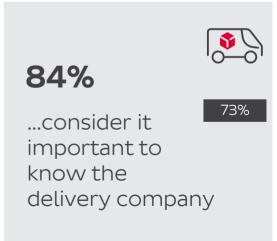
#### **DELIVERY PLACES & PREFERENCES**

Home is from far the preferred delivery place of the C2C users, in line with the delivery places used by regular e-shoppers overall. Having several delivery options matter much more to them, compared to regulars.













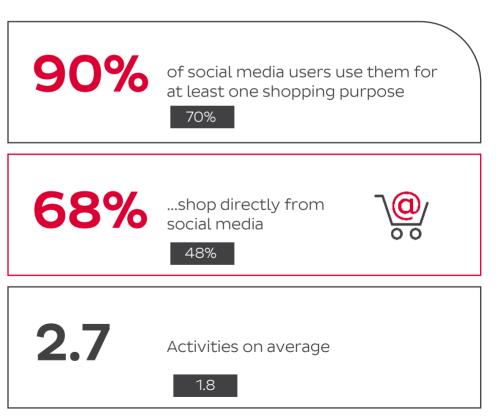
# SHOPPING THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA (AMONG SOCIAL MEDIA USERS)

Romanian regulars are heavy users of shopping from social media. Their use are high and multiple, finding inspiration and information being the top ones, and almost 7 in 10 shop directly from these platforms.

#### Shopping activities done on social networks -%

(Among social media users (n = 531)41 I use them for shopping inspiration I use them for shopping 41 'information gathering' I shop from friends' and family's 30 recommendations I actively look for products to shop in my feed stories etc I shop when I stumble across 24 something in my feed stories etc I shop from banner ads of items I 24 have previously looked at I shop from content from brands I 23 follow I shop from content from people/ pages I follow I shop from video content I shop from influencers' recommendations and links









## TO WHAT EXTENT HAS **INFLATION IMPACTED E-SHOPPING?**

- Regulars e-shoppers remain highly pricesensitive, yet less than in 2021.
- Same findings among the Aficionados, though more open to pay a premium for green and helpful products.
- Regulars and Aficionados are many to purchase on foreign websites, mainly to look for good deals.
- Regulars e-shoppers, heavy users of shopping on social media, tend to rely less on social media influences.



#### **ATTITUDE TOWARDS PRICE**

In 2023, the regulars remain very price-sensitive, despite a decrease compared to 2021. Still 8 in 10 look forward to really good deals and 2/3 to big promotional events. To note, much less of them are open to pay a premium for green products or products / services that simplifies their life.

**65%** 



of regular e-shoppers consider that shopping online saves money - %T2B

70% -7



"Price is the most important factor in my purchasing decisions" - %T2B

80%-6



"I am always on the lookout for a really good deal" - %T2B

65% <sub>-6</sub> v



"I look forward to big discount events, online or offline, (Black Friday, seasonal sales...)" - %T2B

29% -<sub>14</sub> V

"I'm ready to pay a price premium for services that make my life easier" - %T2B

49%

"I'm willing to pay a premium for products/services that are respectful of the environment" -%T2B





#### **ONLINE PURCHASE DRIVERS**

Among drivers of online purchase, free delivery remains at the top of the ranking, followed by detailed description of the product already high in 2022 in Romania. The ability to pay cash on delivery is a growing driver, as well as to have various options of delivery places.

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

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









#### **DISSUASIVE EFFECTS**

The reputation on social media remains the strongest barrier to buying online from a specific e-tailer. Having to pay delivery fee is a growing one, now being the second one in the ranking.

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

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





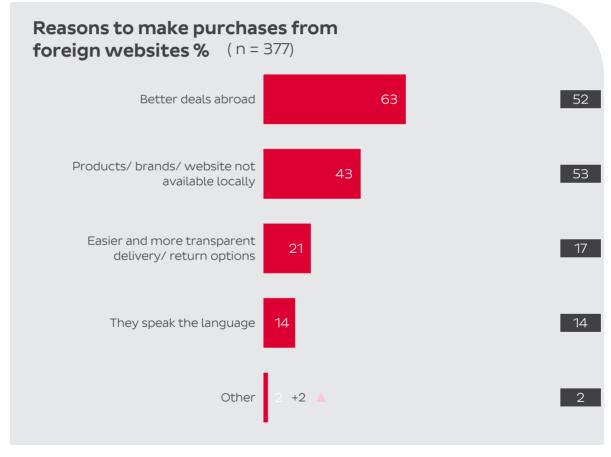




#### **FOREIGN VS. LOCAL**

This year again, 7 out of 10 Romanian regulars are buying on foreign websites, mainly to benefit from better deals, and secondly to find products not available in their country – but far less than the European peers.









#### **PURCHASES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

As in the last years, purchases on foreign websites are mostly made from China and from European countries.

Top 3 most common foreign countries for buying online

1 51%

2 Germany 36%

3 3 26%









65% in other parts of the world



73% in Europe



from neighbouring countries







# ZOOM ON THE PRICE SENSITIVE E-SHOPPERS

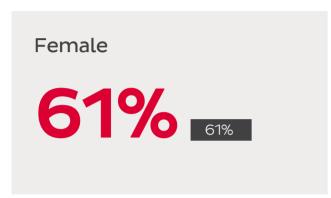
Price sensitive e-buyer has been defined as a regular eshopper which showed price sensitivity by making price the most important factor for its purchase:

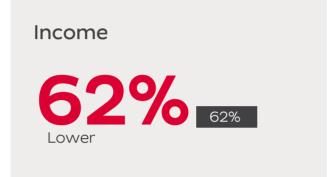
• %TB "Price is the most important factor in my purchasing decisions"

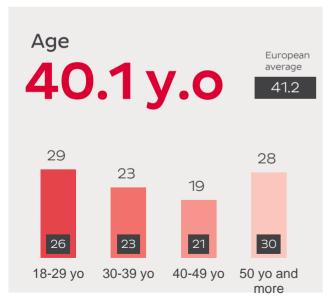
N = 163, country weighting applied.

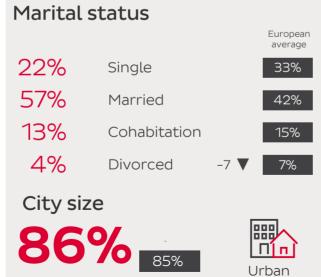


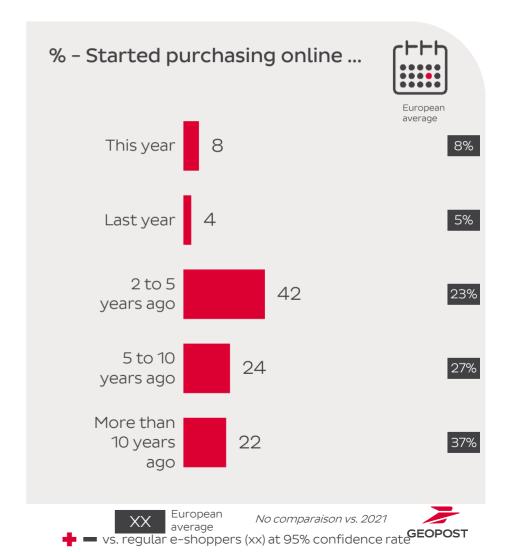
#### REGULAR PRICE SENSITIVE E-BUYERS PROFILE











#### **ONLINE PURCHASE HABITS & ATTITUDES**

Good deals are more important to price sensitive e-buyers, who recognize the time saving benefit from online shopping. although they would not buy all the products on the internet. They receive a bit more parcels than their regulars peers.

Positive +

6.3

European 5.9

Different types of goods bought since January on average

Top 7 Categor	ies	European average	
1. Fashion	66%	59%	
2. Beauty/ Health Care	64%	50%	
3. Shoes	55%	51%	
4. Books	44%	41%	
5. Medicine	43%	32%	
6. Small home furniture/ Decoration	35%	30%	
7. Accessories and jewellery	34%	27%	

+3 vs Regular -1 vs 2022 Annual number of purchases

/!\ No significance test on median

15.2% 15.3%

Average share of online shopping

(on total shopping - average of all categories)

Attitud	es specificities v	s. regular e	-shoppers
(biggest sign	ificant gaps vs. regular e-s	hoppers on % agre	e & strongly agree

92%	I am always on the lookout for a really good deal	(80)	86'
	3	, ,	

Shopping online allows me to save time

There are products that I would never buy online

79% I actively look for reviews and ask for recommendations online (69) 66% before making a purchase

79% My mobile is quickly becoming my main shopping tool

I actively look for products and services that help me have a healthy lifestyle

I prefer to buy products manufactured in my country

I am concerned about the impact of e-commerce on society

66% Relative to other people I have more passion about eshopping



European

73%

(68) 64%

(68) 59%

56%

49%

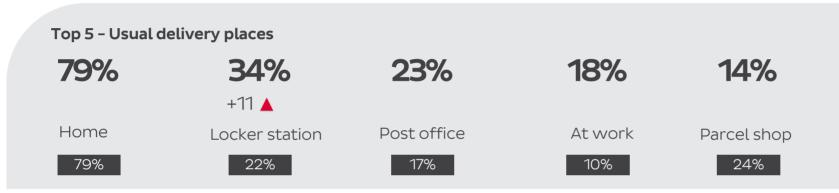
52%

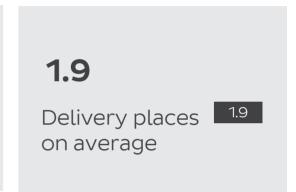




#### **DELIVERY PLACES & PREFERENCES**

Delivery at home is the first used place by price-sensitive e-buyers as well, followed by locker station delivery, used by more of them this year. Having several delivery options and knowing the delivery company is very important to them.







81%

...consider it important to know the delivery company



# ZOOM ON THE AFICIONADOS

Like regular e-shoppers, Aficionados are highly price sensitive, yet a little bit less than in 2021.



#### **ATTITUDES TOWARDS PRICE**



Same findings among the Aficionados: they are highly price sensitive, yet less than during Covid-19 pandemic. Though, more of them than regulars are looking for big discount events. Despite a decrease, they remain widely open to pay a premium for green products or services and products that eases their life.

80% -14



**72% 72%** -14 ▼

43% +(29)



74% +(65)

"I am always on the lookout for a really good deal" - %T2B

"Price is the most important factor in my purchasing decisions" - %T2B

"I look forward to big discount events, online or offline, (Black Friday, seasonal sales...)" - %T2B

68% -16V

of Aficionados consider that

shopping online saves money -



easier" - %T2B

"I'm ready to pay a price premium for services that make my life

"I'm willing to pay a premium for products/services that are respectful of the environment" -%T2B

%T2B

#### **ONLINE PURCHASE DRIVERS**

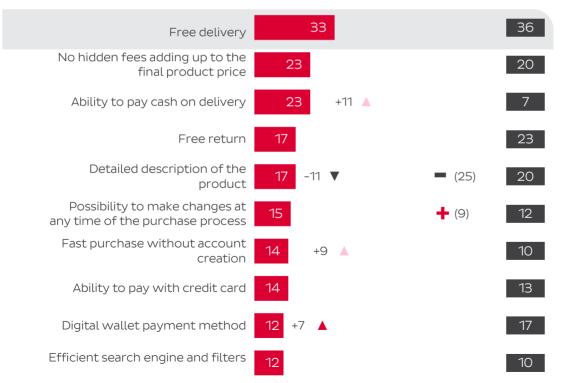
Unlike regulars, Aficionados put less importance on detailed description of the product vs. last year.

They are more interested into cash payment on delivery, while free delivery and no hidden fees remain their main drivers.

## Top 10 important criteria when buying online % - (out of 26 criteria)

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









#### **DISSUASIVE EFFECTS**



When focusing on online purchase barriers, no significant evolution vs. 2022 in the top 10. Bad opinions on social media, too long delivery time and return fees remain the top 3 equal barriers.

## Top 10 features that prevent the most from buying online % - (out of 17 criteria)

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





Biggest evolutions vs. 2022 (apart from TOP10)

No other evolution

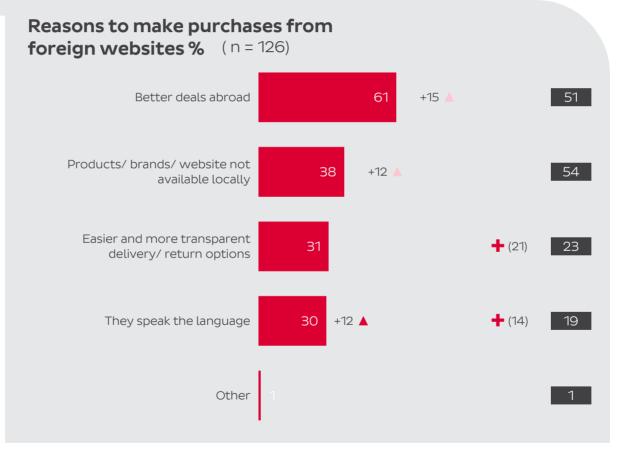


## **FOREIGN VS. LOCAL**



The Aficionados are even heavier buyers on foreign websites. They are looking to better deals abroad – even more so vs. 2021 – also to find products not available locally, and because they speak the language of the country more than last year.







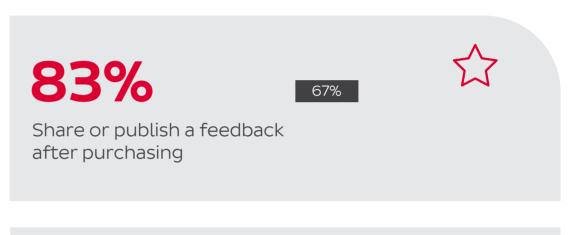


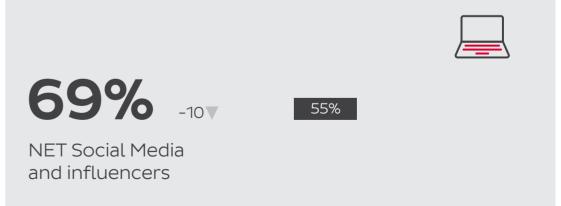
## **REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Regular e-shoppers rely on their trust when they choose a website, and on their relatives' recommendations, though lesss than before. Many of them share a feedback after purchase and the influence of social media remains very high.

## Drivers when choosing a website/ an app-%









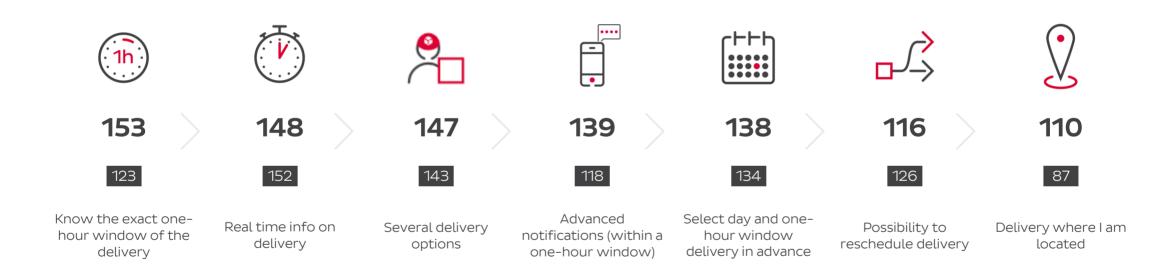




# **TOP DELIVERY PREFERENCES**

Being informed on the exact time of delivery, and real time info remain the top expectations of Romanian regular e-shoppers. Having several delivery options is going up in the ranking.

**Delivery preferences** (importance index – average interest = 100)

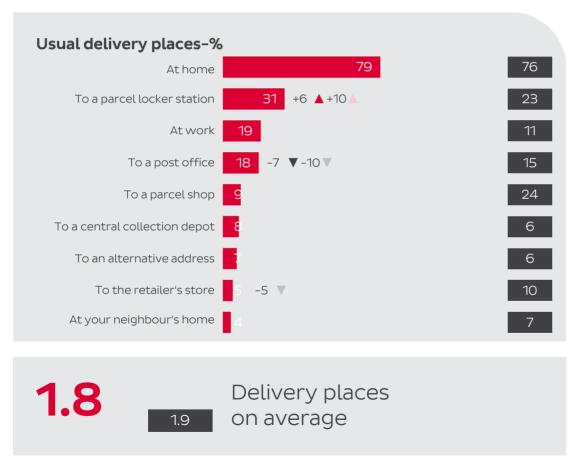


### **RANKING IN 2022**

#1 = #2 = #5<sub>+2</sub> #3 -1 #4 -1 #6 = #7 =

## **DELIVERY PREFERENCES**

Regulars' deliveries remain highly concentrated at home. Usage of parcel lockers is growing overtime, and regulars are less to use post office and retailer's store delivery. They eventually use the same number of delivery places than before.







38% Are delivered out of home (parcel locker, parcel shop or retailer store)

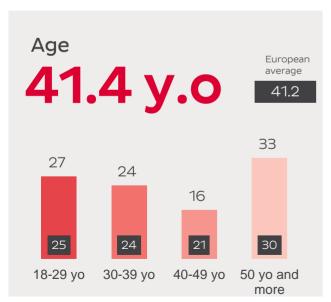


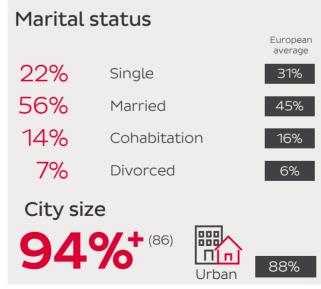
44%

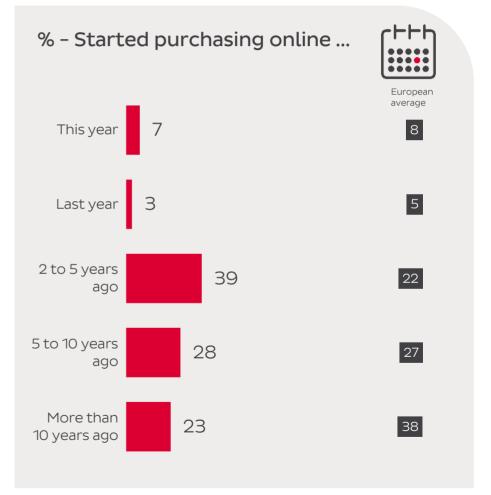
## **OUT OF HOME DELIVERY USERS PROFILE**















No comparaison vs. 2021



## **ONLINE PURCHASE HABITS & ATTITUDES**

OOH users are heavier e-buyers compared to the average regular e-shoppers, buying more different types of goods and purchasing more than the regulars. They also increase their number of annual purchases vs. 2022

**7.2** + (6.3)



Different types of goods bought since January on average

Top 7 Categories		European average
1. Beauty/ Health Care	65%	51%
2. Fashion	64%	59%
3. Shoes	56%	53%
4. Books	48%	47%
5. Medicine	46%	35%
6. High- tech/Electronics	40%	30%
7. Leisure	40% +(32)	38%

## Attitudes specificities vs. regular e-shoppers

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

NO SIGNIFICANT GAP VS. REGULAR E-SHOPPERS

+8 vs Regular +7 vs. 2022

Annual number
of purchases

European
average

44

/! No significance test on median 15.3% 15.9%

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

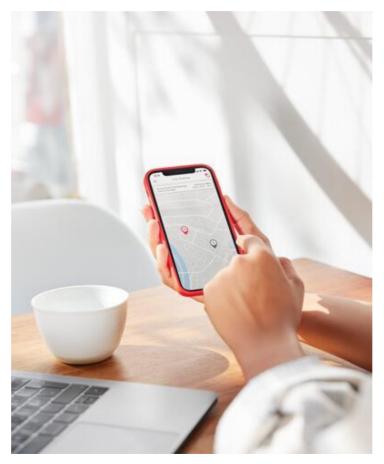


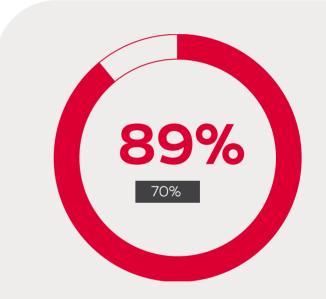
## **IMPORTANCE OF DELIVERY SERVICES**

Delivery services are considered as important to most Romanian regulars: 9 in 10 consider that being informed about the exact 1-hour delivery timeslot and being able to choose the specific day/time of delivery is important while shopping.



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)





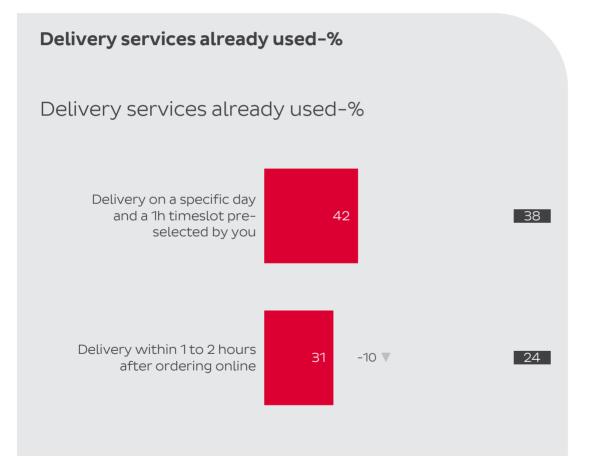
Consider that the ability to select the day and exact 1-hour window/timeslot in advance of their delivery would make them more likely to purchase from a website/retailer/app (% agree & strongly agree)

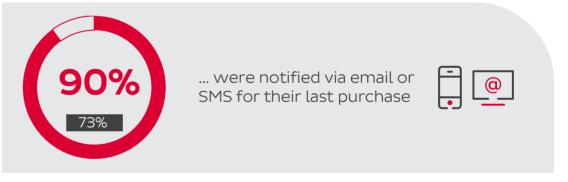




# **USE OF DELIVERY SERVICES**

Almost all Romanian regulars were notified for their last purchase, and 4 in 10 were delivered on a specific day and 1-hour time slot. While less used the delivery within 1 to 2 hours after ordering online vs. 2021.

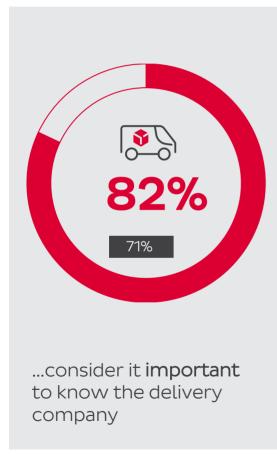


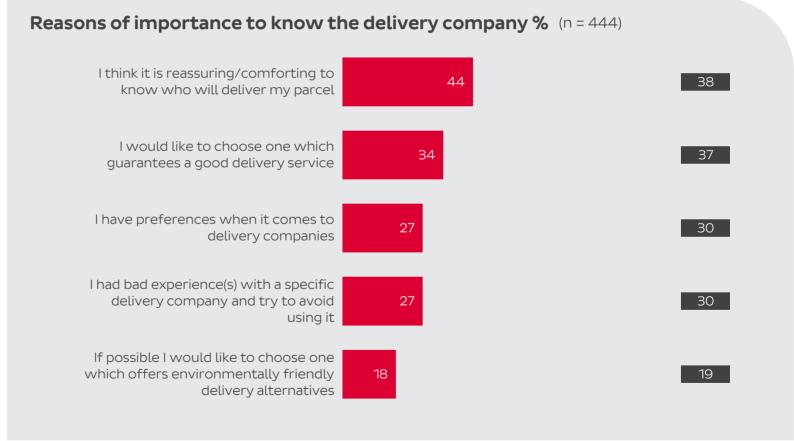




## **DELIVERY COMPANY**

As formerly observed, 4 out of 5 of Romanian regular e-shoppers find it important to know the carrier brand, mainly for ease-of-mind (reassuring / preferences) and for the services provided.







Rg: several answers allowed



## **GREEN DELIVERY ALTERNATIVES**

Offering green delivery options would interest more than 60% of regular e-shoppers and 80% consider that it could help to opt for a retailer having such options. Overtime, OOH delivery benefits from a greener image.



**65%** 

58%

Consider that having choice of environmentally friendly delivery alternatives is important when buying online

95% for transparent/complete delivery costs

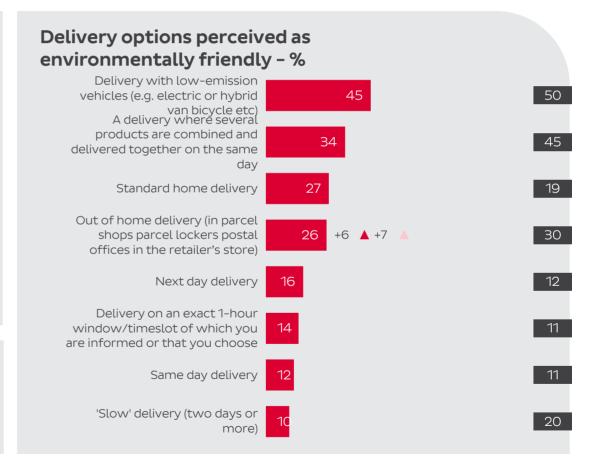
91% for free delivery

83% for various options of place of delivery

82%

64%

would be more likely to opt for a website/ retailer/ app that has environmentally- friendly delivery options - %T2B

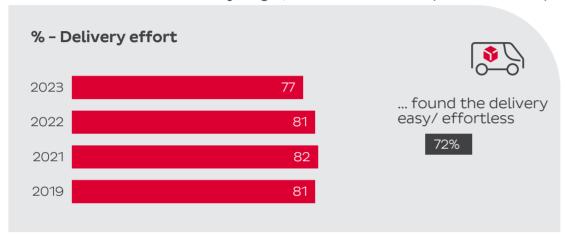






## **EFFORT AND SATISFACTION VS. ONLINE PURCHASE**

In 2023, there is a slight downward trend in satisfaction about delivery and last online purchase. Yet, the levels of satisfaction remains very high, and the overall purchase experience is very satisfying as well.







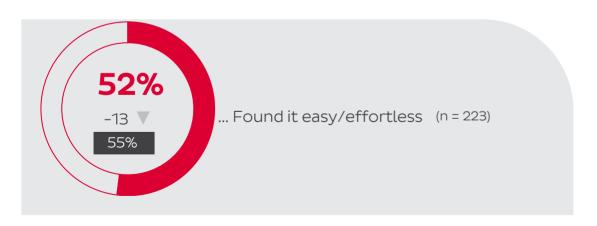




# **RETURNS**

11% of Romanian regulars returned their last purchase, less than in 2021. Among them, half find their return easy, lower share than in the past. The main return method is using a carrier that picks up the parcel at home.





Top 3 Return Methods (n = 223)		
53%	Carrier picking it up at home	23%
18%	Dropping it off at a parcel shop	34%
15%	Dropping it off at a parcel locker station	20%









# ZOOM ON THE AFICIONADOS

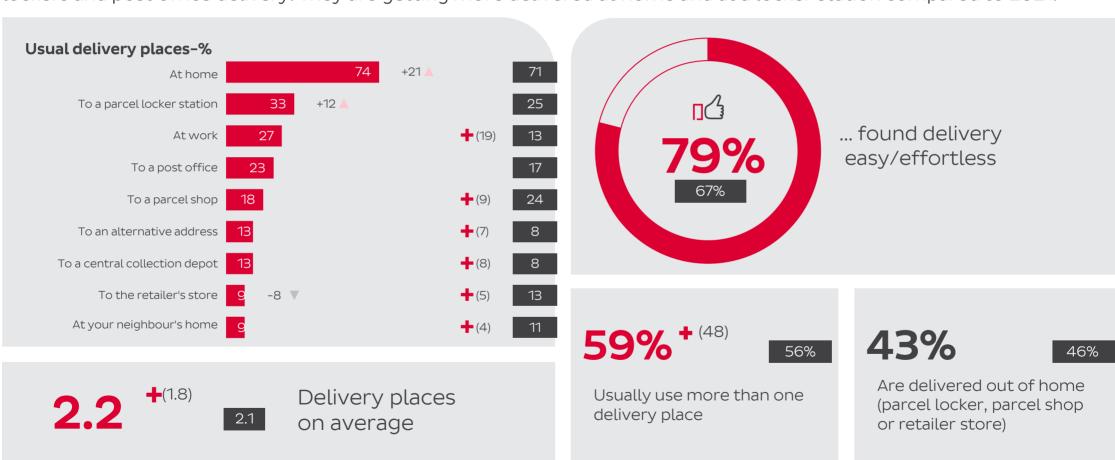
The Aficionados use a wider set of delivery places than regular e-shoppers. They keep having a positive experience with the online purchase overall, and in trend their perception of delivery is back on a positive track, unlike the regulars.



## **DELIVERY PREFERENCES**



Aficionados use a bit more delivery places than the regulars, more of them using most OOH delivery, except parcel lockers and post office delivery. They are getting more delivered at home and at a locker station compared to 2021.



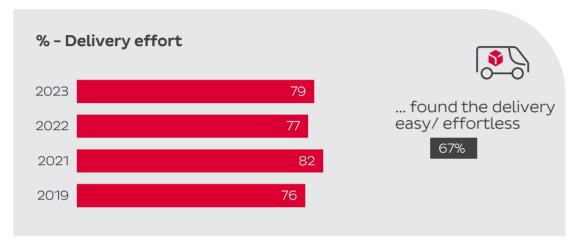
D14. How much effort did you have to put into the delivery (e.g. tracking, picking up, receiving, etc...) of your last online purchase? C14. Where do you usually have your parcels delivered to?

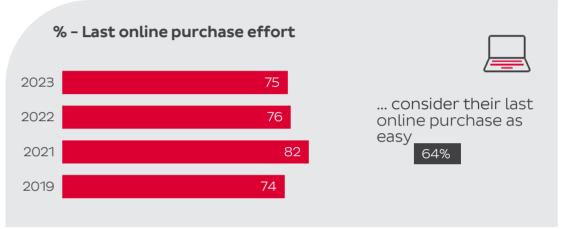


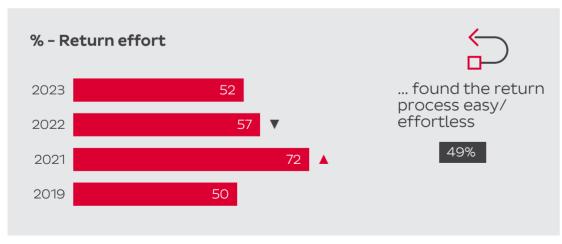


## **EFFORT AND SATISFACTION VS. ONLINE PURCHASE**

Aficionados keep having a very positive experience with the online purchase and delivery, and in trend their perception of their online purchase experience is back on a positive track. Return easiness is more critical.













## **DELIVERY COMPANY**

Knowing the delivery company remains important to most of Romanian Aficionados, for the similar reasons as for the regular e-shoppers: reassuring / preventing from bad experiences, and related services.





