

Objective

Investigating impact investment opportunities in the growing but controversial fast fashion industry and other apparel companies based on financial and ESG analysis

Investment Decision

The Washington Investment Institution is **against** investing in Shein or any other fast fashion or apparel company.

An alternative investment in **Etsy** would yield positive financial returns and ESG impact.

Agenda



Agenda 1

Investment Principles



Our Investment Beliefs

We invest in equities with...

Financial Merit

We seek opportunities for **steady capital appreciation** and/or **dividend income** while minimizing **risk**.

Our fiduciary duty for Washington state employees to deliver retirement security requires a **long investment horizon** and **prudent risk-taking**.

ESG Performance

As a public financial institution, our investment decisions must reflect our obligation to create **positive stakeholder impact**.

Assets with major ESG risks also damage **long** term investment returns.

Investment options were analyzed based on financial opportunities/risks and stakeholder impact





Our Transparency Requirements

Financial Information based on GAAP

Operational and financial information is paramount for investment decision-making. Disclosure following **standardized accounting methods** is the first step to transparent governance.



Our Transparency Requirements

Non-Financial (ESG) Information

An ESG Report following either **SASB** or **GRI standards**:

Standardized disclosure makes way for fair evaluation of ESG performance across companies.

Long-term sustainability plan:

Information on a long-term plan to mitigate ESG risks, including current efforts, results and prospects.

Key ESG Performance Indicators for Fast Fashion Companies

Suppliers

Audit for labor code of conduct

Local procurement operations

Environment

Raw material sourcing

Packaging volume

Wastewater discharge

Agenda 2

Company Evaluation



Ultra-fast and ultra-cheap, Shein is the newest fast-fashion brand on steroids

SHEIN

Real Time Fashion

A Chinese online fast fashion retailer, Shein's mission is to **make fashion accessible** to all.

Consumer driven manufacturing by artificial intuition assists Shein in creating product ideas that reflect search and social media behaviors of its target market.

Vertical integration of the total supply chain allows the production schedule for Shein to deliver products from design to store to be as short as **three days**¹, compared to ZARA's average of 3 weeks.

Shein in Numbers: 2021 Statistics

#1 App

Shein is the #1 shopping app in 56 countries, surpassing Amazon in iOS app download counts².

600,000 items on sale

On a daily basis Shein releases 500 fashion products³, while Boohoo releases the same over a week.

28% market share

Shein surpasses H&M(20%) and Zara(11%) and grew by nearly 160% in the first half of 20214.

Shein is part of the growing ultra-fast fashion industry

Increasing Apparel Consumption

Growing Fast Fashion Market

Transition to Online

More clothes bought by the average consumer compared to 2000¹

20%

Less times an item is worn compared to 2000²

41%

Women feel pressured to wear a different outfit for every event³

\$39.8B

Expected value of fast fashion market in 2025, growing at a CAGR 7%⁴

Location-based retailers, such as Forever 21 and Neiman Marcus filed for **bankruptcy** and closed stores,

While ultra-fast fashion **online retailer** ASOS posted **revenue growth** of 20% each for 2020 and 2021⁵.

29.5%

Fashion retail sales from the ecommerce fashion industry⁶

Shein's total addressable market of online fast fashion will likely become larger in the near future.

Shein has attracted major investments as a dominant force in ultra-fast fashion.

Exponential International Growth

Shein is the world's **largest online-only** fashion firm¹.

\$10B

Estimated sales in 2020, exceeding 2019 by 300%²

Shein holds the largest market share in US fast fashion.

Popularity with Venture Capitals

Shein was valuated at \$15 billion in the Series E funding in August 2020, and this number has ballooned to \$50 billion by 2021².

Previous investors include Sequoia Capital and IDG capital.

Recent IPO rumors

While Shein has denied IPO rumors, 2022 reports discussed the Chinese firm's plans with the possibility of CEO acquiring Singaporean citizenship for an offshore IPO.

However, Shein may face unwelcome market conditions and political turmoil

Lukewarm IPO Results

More than **half** of 481 U.S. IPOs from 2021 are trading **below** their offer prices¹.

Ex. Affirm Holdings and Coupang, both ecommerce companies, now trades at half their initial prices.

Inherent Regulatory Risk

Overseas investors are forbidden from participating in management in Chinese firms, and their total ownership is capped at 30%².

Unique Political Risks

Exposure to trade wars and government crackdowns

- Blacklisted in India after the China-India skirmishes(2020)³
- Chinese company Didi's 70% drop in share values & forced off mobile stores after government regulation⁴.

Exploiting a Legal Loophole

Policy changes banning duty-free shipping under \$800 would directly impact its operations and costs

Investing in Shein's IPO will probably incur short-term losses, while long-term growth faces many risk factors

Shein's technological power is one of the main drivers of its growth, but it also has its shortcomings

Supply Chain Integration Innovation

Connecting 6,000+ clothing factories¹ with proprietary internal management software, Shein collects near-instant feedback about demand and order new inventory virtually on demand.

Algorithm-based Demand Research and Design

With massive amounts of data collected from its customers, Shein uses powerful algorithms to analyze online trends in order to quickly pump out new and trendy designs.

Lack of Oversight & Insensitive Marketing

Shein was called out for selling Muslim prayer mats as decorative rugs and renaming them 'fringe trim carpets', as well as facing public outrage after SHEIN's listing of swastika necklaces².

Clever marketing converts young customers into walking ad campaigns

Demographic Focus on Gen Z

Shein's target audience is women around the world aged between 16 and 35 who mostly buy their clothes online¹.

Massive User-Generated Content

Millions of review videos or 'clothing hauls' across TikTok and YouTube, as well as a community of fans #Sheingirls on Instagram (1.12M hashtags)²

Mass Awareness Through Social Media³

Paid partnership with macro-influencers, such as Katy Perry and Addison Rae to reach new customers and build the brand image.

Affiliate programs with 10~20% commission rates for micro-influencers and content creators to grow and retain its customer base as well as provide free publicity.

Country-specific local influencer strategy to create relevant connections with consumers

Shein's mysteriously cheap and wide offerings come at the price of its consumers

Democratizing Fashion by Affordability and Inclusion

Toxic Materials & Data Insecurity

Low Transparency

\$11 tops

Affordable clothes, with prices even lower than other fast fashion brands¹

8K+Plus Size options

The most size-inclusive fast fashion retailer in the UK, with sizing from size 6 to size 26²

20X

Lead in a children's jacket to allowable lead limit, leading to Health Canada's recall³

6.4M

Users affected by breach of personal identifiable information by lack of cybersecurity⁴

7 Out of 100 Shein's 2021 Fashion Transparency Score due to lacking public disclosure⁵

Official financial results of Shein's sales, revenue or profits are not revealed

Shein's ESG-related misconducts reflect deep-rooted issues within the fast fashion industry

Poor Labor Conditions and Contractor Relations

Harmful to the Environment

Rip-offs & Plagiarism

To lower prices, SHEIN subcontracts to smaller workshops and factories

75 Hours per week for workers at Shein's contractors in Guangzhou factories¹

False disclosure of factories' certification by ISO and labor standards SA8000²



Shein hauls promote overconsumption

Wasteful individual plastic packaging

Large amounts of GHG emissions from global shipping to 220 countries

SHEIN abuses its market power by **stealing designs** from brands, independent designers and small businesses.

Plagiarism hurts its competitors as well as diminishing the range of products for consumers.

Investment Decision in Shein

NO investment in Shein as it does not fit our investment principle on stakeholder impact. However, further investigation into the apparel industry is needed.

Opportunities

Shein's dominant market share and innovative operations are valued features, which is proven by major early investors backing the firm

With an **ardent online following** in a focused demographic, Shein has a **strong customer base** backed by **algorithm driven marketing**

Risks

Little to no disclosure of its financial performance and the team behind Shein makes it difficult to gauge its investment value.

Inherent **political risks** and unwelcome **market conditions** facing the IPO raise concerns over Shein's stability as an investment.

Shein's business model and operating practices has repeatedly hurt the **environment** and its **suppliers** and **consumers**.

Shein Scores



	Positive Status	Negative Status
Positive Outlook	А	В
Negative Outlook	В	С

Criteria	Score	Criteria Score	
Economic	Α	Suppliers	С
Socio-Cultural	В	Community	С
Political	В	Environment	С
Legal	В	Customers	В
Technological	В	Shareholders	В
Financial Merit	В	ESG Performance	С

Agenda 3

Industry Evaluation



Other fast fashion and apparel companies were evaluated according to value segments

Apparel company: Company that deals in the manufacturing and retail trade of finished garments



Investment Principles

Company

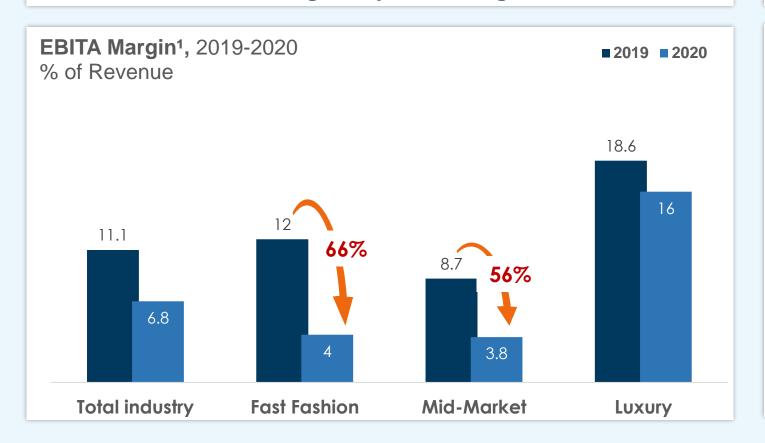
Industry

Alternative

Conclusion

Pandemic has widened profitability gap among price value segments; luxury outperformed other segments

Profit Margins by Value Segment



Findings

- Luxury was the only segment that maintained margins in 2020
- In 2020, mid-market giant VF
 Corporation lost its spot from
 McKinsey's "Super Winners" list, and
 12% of revenue
- Most fast fashion Super Winners maintained their spots but saw 20%-30% decrease in profit

Investment Principles

Company

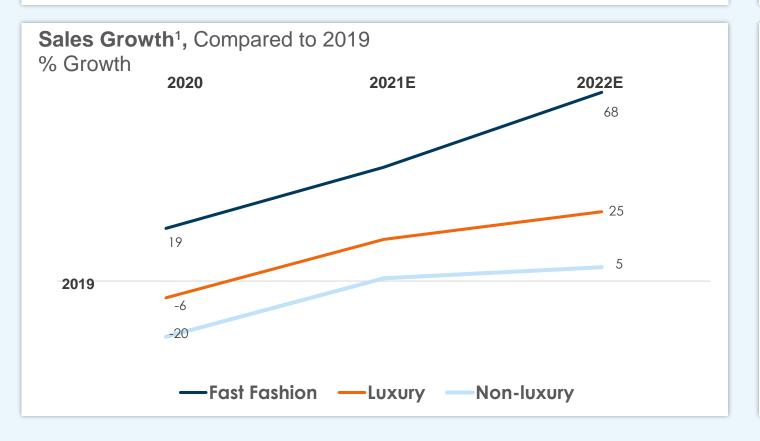
Industry

Alternative

Conclusion

Fast fashion and luxury segments have positive outlook consensus on post-pandemic growth, while the mid-market is predicted to suffer

Sales Forecast by Value Segment

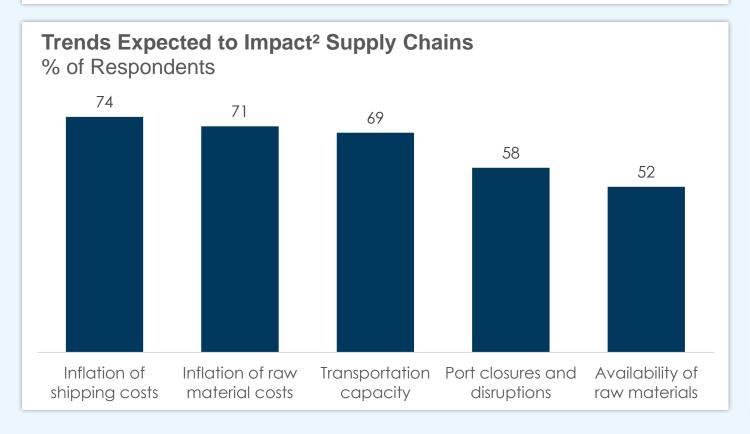


Findings

- Luxury and fast fashion sales will drive the resurrection of apparel industry
- Mid-market will hinder non-luxury growth, likely due to lack of online channels and lower value/price
- Despite inflation, mid-market executives see price decrease coming in the segment due to its continued underperformance throughout the pandemic

Ongoing supply chain issues and inflation will incur direct and indirect costs for the whole industry





Findings

Unpredictable demand due to reversal in consumer behavior

Return to pre-pandemic life has spiked interest in occasion dresses, workwear and luggage

Dwindling consumer confidence amid inflation

20% YoY drop in both consumer confidence and expectations. Wall-street sees consumers spending more on staples rather than discretionary items.

Rising supply chain and labor costs

Asos could lose **40% of profits** in 2022⁴. COVID-19 related complications and Brexit are two of the factors pushing freight delivery costs and wage.

Technological innovations in machine learning and blockchain offer exciting opportunities for the industry

Artificial Intelligence

VR Technology

Blockchain

Trend Prediction

Google partnered with Zalando and created neural network which was trained to understand style preferences, colors and textures. After that, the algorithm was used to create designs based on users' styles preferences.

Rising Supply Chain and Labor Costs

ASOS.com, Levi's, Macy's, North Face have turned to sizing technology that use algorithms to solve sizing issues and give accurate size recommendations on their website to reduce environmental impact on returns.

Product Passports

LVMH has joined forces with two other major luxury names –Prada and Cartier, part of Richemont – to develop Aura Blockchain Consortium, the world's first global luxury blockchain. The objective is to provide consumers with a high level of transparency and traceability throughout the lifecycle of a product.

Impact

Cost reduction, Sustainability, Fighting counterfeits, Implementation costs, Cleaning up supply chain

Investment Principles

Company

Industry

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Conclusion

Demographic and economic conditions are conducive to the growth of fast fashion and luxury market

Gen Z

With **convenience**, **affordability and speed**, fast fashion brands such as Shein, H&M and Forever 21 take the top spots as Gen Z's favorite place to shop. ¹

933K Followers of Boohoo on Tik Tok, 10.3M likes

Income Polarization

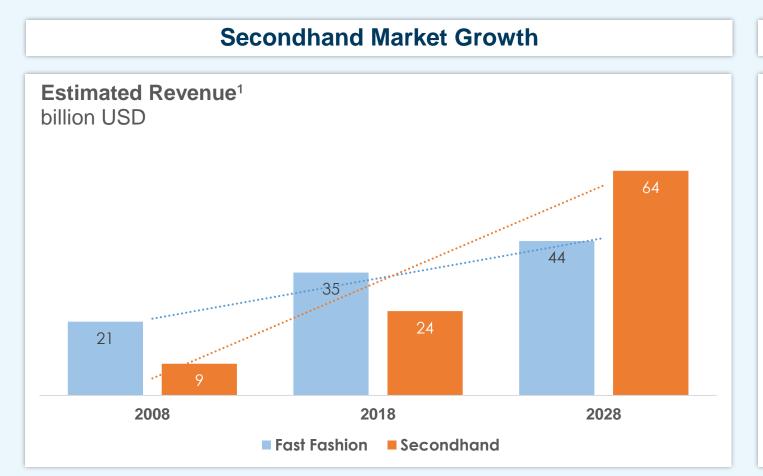
Pandemic-driven income polarization increased demand for cheap clothes.

S30K

Wage ceiling for bottom 90% in 2020, in contrast with top 0.1% taking more than \$1M on average³

People looked for clothes under \$7⁻¹, while Internet searches for "cheap" clothes" shot up by 46 percent²

... while demand for sustainability poses risk of losing core consumers as the secondhand market grows



Findings

62% of Gen Z³ and **73%** of Millennials⁴ prefer to buy from sustainable brands

Secondhand market projected to grow to nearly 1.5x size of fast fashion by 2028 1

Gen Z are growing consumers in the secondhand market

42% shopped secondhand apparel in the past year¹

53% plan to spend more on secondhand in the next 5 years¹

83% "strongly agree" with only temporarily owning clothes and reselling them²

The apparel industry has stayed relatively clear of government regulations, but things may change as environmental concerns rise.

Low Regulatory Environment

By manufacturing and producing overseas, fashion companies have been exempt from domestic labor and environmental laws

Little to no legal repercussions from memberships and certificates after failing to meet industry guidelines

Paradigm Shift with More Regulations

Rising voices of an **environmentally aware generation** reflected in new regulations and certificates

France and Germany's requirements of fashion companies to disclose carbon information & meet ESG standards

California Garment Worker's Act (SB62) to ban piece-rate wage system

Investment Principles

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Conclusion

Each value segment was analyzed based on the apparel supply chain and life cycle and their impact on industry stakeholders



Design plagiarism is prevalent within the apparel industry, but the fast fashion industry has reacted with noticeable impudence

Community

Plagiarism in Fast Fashion

\$3 million Lawsuit



"functional, generic, ornamental, and/or not distinctive"

-Zara on Amiri's jeans

Plagiarism in Luxury

Apology & Accreditation



Chanel will credit Mati Ventrillon by including the words 'Mati Ventrillon design'

-Chanel's public apology

Impact

On-going problem in fast fashion poses legal risk

Indie designers without financial resources left unprotected

Investment Principles

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Conclusion

Fast fashion exacerbates labor and resource intensity issues of apparel production

Suppliers

Environment

Working Conditions

Resource Intensity

Apparel Industry

60%

Global textile exported from regions where labor trafficking is prevalent¹ Even with Utthan pact (2016), facilities remain **unregulated** and do not meet **safety laws**⁴

1.2B
GHG in tons

1.5T

Liters of annual water consumption

Polluting, water-consuming industry⁵

- Facilities powered by coal which has largest footprint, burdening developing countries
- Over 90% of water consumption comes from fiber production

Fast Fashion

14-16 hours 7day-shifts, lasting until 2-3am to meet deadlines

0-1%

Garment workers earning living wage in Bangladesh & Vietnam²

300x

Damage from N₂O emissions from cheap synth. fiber³

52

"micro" seasons per year

Distribution pollution and greenwashing is an industry-wide issue, and fast fashion's "ultra-fast" air journey isn't helping

Environment

Distribution Pollution		Greenwashing			
Packaging		Transportation		60%	Environmental claims in fashion brands
	CO ₂ emissions		Proportion of	00/0	"unsubstantiated" and "misleading"1
2%	from transportation in supply chain ³	40%		0	Companies that have clear commitments to phase out synthetic fibers
Fast Fashio	Air freight emissions	14%	Proportion of recycled	1/3	Companies able to prove that they have followed through gender-based violence and harassment commitments
g of CO	cargo ships ² packaging "Conscio		More synthetic materials used Recycled material proportions unknown		

Fast fashion's "ultra-fast" journey to consumers and "sustainable" measures aren't helpful to the environment

Environment

Overconsumption		Microfiber	
5.5 days	The time it takes for an average consumer to purchase a new item of clothing	35%	Proportion of Plastic particles washed off from synthetic clothes in primary plastic ocean pollution
40%	Increase in clothing purchase in Europe between 1996 and 2012 Decrease in average garment-use time	9M	Average amount of microfibers released into wastewater plants after a single laundry wash
36%	since 2005	0.507	Proportion of human-made debris on
\$400B	prematurely due to overconsumption	85%	shorelines around the world

Industry | ESG Evaluation | 7. Disposal

Massive amounts of disposed and recycled textile waste harm the environment

Environment

Incineration and Landfills

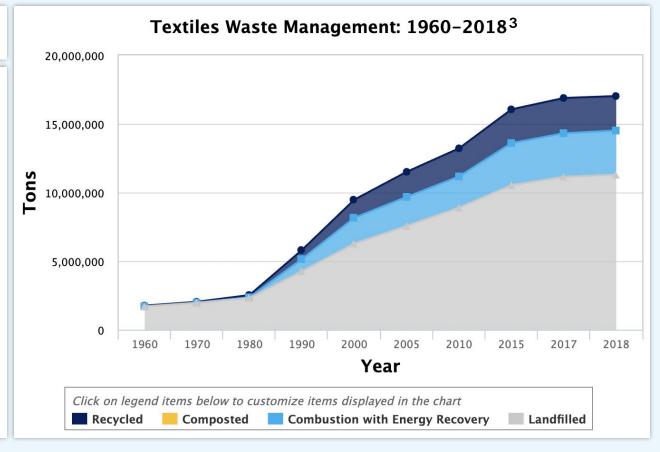
While incineration recovers some **energy**, it generates further **emissions and air pollutants**. Incineration of synthetic fibers may also releases plastic **microfibers**, while taking up to **200 years** to decompose in landfills.

£28.6 M

Worth of clothing burned by Burberry in 2017¹. Brands regard **incineration** as the most cost-effective way of maintaining exclusivity.

3 of 5

For every 5 garments produced, the equivalent of 3 end up in a landfill or incinerated each year².



Industry | ESG Evaluation | 7. Disposal



Investment Principles

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Conclusion

Massive amounts of disposed and recycled textile waste harm the environment

Environment

Recycling

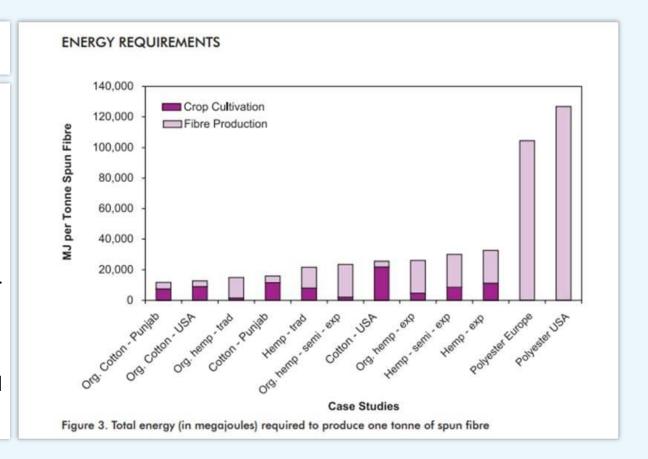
rPET requires **59%** less energy and creates **32%** less **CO₂ emissions** compared to virgin polyester, while preventing used plastic from entering landfills.

< 1%

Proportion of material used to produce recycled clothing

Still more **energy intensive** to recycle PET into fiber than to use organically produced natural fibers.

Both virgin and recycled polyester contribute to **microplastics** pollution by shedding microfibers and bioaccumulates in the ecosystem.





Investment Principles

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Investment Decision

No investment in other fast fashion and apparel companies as they do not meet investment criteria.

Opportunities

The pandemic favored **fast fashion and luxury segments** of the apparel industry, while **mid-market** brands further lost their profitability.

The widening gap in consumer income, and consumer habits of target demographics also contributes to this divide.

The entire industry will reap the benefits of rapid technology innovation.

Risks

Distruptions in the **global economy and supply chain** threaten the viability of investing in **any apparel company**.

Consumer conscience regarding **sustainability** can overturn their love for any brand, but especially those in **fast fashion**.

The industry has enjoyed a **relatively easy regulatory environment**, but heightened concerns regarding **endemic labor and environmental issues** are changing this.

Most importantly, there is **no need to produce more when there is already more than enough**, especially if there is **growing demand for what has already been produced**.

Industry Scores

Criteria	Luxury	Mid	Fast	Criteria	Luxury	Mid	Fast
Economic	Α	С	А	Suppliers	С	В	С
Socio-Cultural	Α	С	Α	Community	В	Α	С
Political	N/A	N/A	N/A	Environment	С	С	С
Legal	В	В	В	Customers	N/A	N/A	N/A
Technological	Α	В	Α	Shareholders	Α	В	Α
Financial Merit	А	С	А	ESG Performance	В	В	С

Investment Principles

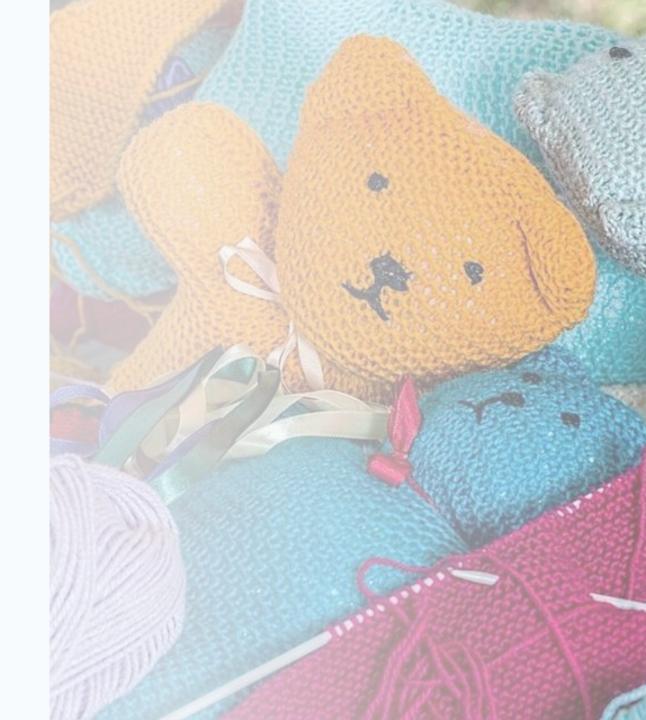
Company

Industry

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Agenda 4

Alternative Investment



Why we are investing in Etsy

Since the current model of circular fashion is insufficient, we looked for companies that fulfilled Lansink's ladder by

- Preventing excessive mass production of garments
- Enabling the reuse of second-hand clothing.

We searched for assets that **enable alternative modes of consumption** with less impact on suppliers and the environment.



As a technical enabler of connecting sellers of **handmade** and **secondhand products** to consumers, Etsy fits our description.

Etsy is a major player in the handmade and resale market

Etsy's mission & House of Brands

An online marketplace for handmade goods, Etsy's vision is to *keep commerce human* by connecting creative sellers and passionate buyers around the world

A Global Handmade Marketplace

Acquisition of Elo7, also known as 'Etsy of Brazil', with plans to enter the Latin America handmade market.

Entry into the Resale Market

Acquisition of Reverb and Depop, respectively online marketplaces for used musical instruments and fashion.

\$1252B

The expected value of the global handicrafts market in 2027, growing at CAGR 10.41% from \$680B in 2021¹

The **secondhand fashion retail market** is expected to double in size over the next five years, as consumers seek sustainable, more affordable items.

\$84B

Expected Market size of secondhand fashion retail market in 2030²

11 times

Secondhand clothing market is growing at 11 times faster than traditional retail²

With the growth of those two markets, Etsy's Total Addressable Market(TAM) is 1.7 trillion in 6 core geographies³.

Investment Principles

Company

Industry

Alternative

COVID-19 launched Etsy's agile business through the roof

Strong Growth through the Pandemic

Gross Merchandise Sales jumped 18% during 2020 and was more than 2.5 times greater compared to 2019¹. Since 2015, Etsy's annual revenue has increased 6.29x and doubled in 2020².

81.9MActive Users^a

Increased mask consumption, lockdown of commercial stores and interest in shopping small all helped Etsy acquire a large number of new and active buyers.

Cash Generation Ability & Capital-light Structure

\$0.26 Per dollar

Boasting strong cash flow, Etsy generated \$584 million of free cash flow (on \$2.2 billion in sales) in 20204.

23.3%Operating margin⁵

As an ecommerce platform, Etsy operates a capital light business model without large inventories or assets.

Favorable social trends and technological investments boost Etsy's appeal as a viable investment

Shopping Local and Supporting Small Business

Consumers buy from neighborhood stores or locally sourced products to 'reinvest in local economies(45%)' and 'keep money in the community(44%)'

72%

56%

Of millennials are committed to supporting small businesses more than they did pre-pandemic²

Commitment to Technological Investment

\$32.5M

Acquisition of Blackbird Technologies in 2016 for early investment into machine learning technology improved the platform's search quality and shopping experience ³.

115%

Increase in experiment velocity in 2019 from using Google Cloud, leading to better buyer and seller insights⁴

Etsy is currently undervalued for market reasons, but will provide high return over the long run



Etsy's All Time High

With legendary growth in revenues and net income, Etsy's stock price increased by almost **700%**, from \$44 in December 2019 to **\$307.75** ²

52% Drop and Undervaluation by **50%**

The sudden drop in stock price arises from sector rotation away from previous tech stocks and pandemic stocks and is not limited to Etsy alone.



Positive Outlook on Etsy Stock

Taking a conservative view on revenue and margin growth, our investment is still expected to return 30%. Wall Street estimates point at 70% returns³.

Investment Principles

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Positive ESG impact is inherently written into ETSY's business model

Suppliers

Income created by sellers¹

2.6M Jobs created in the independent worker economy²

11.4%

\$4B

Contribution to household income as a supplementary source³

Community

While Etsy is a global company, most consumption happens locally, producing a larger economic impact on the local economy.

95%

US sellers source their vendors and suppliers domestically, with 48% from their own state⁴

Environment

Reduction in handmade item's carbon, water and waste footprints compared to factory-made goods.⁵

Slow production by small sellers make sure that power consumption and waste production is minimal

Etsy is conducting ESG initiatives to create a virtuous cycle leading back to its business model

Suppliers

Promote Local Consumption

Implemented 'local seller' signal to notify buyers when the shop is in the same region as the item

Foster Equal Opportunities

Support nonprofits through Uplift Fund at Brooklyn Community Foundation

Provide Financial Support

Joined BlackRock's Emergency Savings Initiative to resolve financial difficulties Etsy sellers face.

Community

\$2.6M Donation in charitable gifts¹

\$1M

Donation to support Blackled organizations²

\$750Per year

Amount for employee matching program, expanded from \$500.3

2000 hours

Volunteer hours put in by Etsy employees in 2020

Environment

Green Investments

400K

Investments in verified emission reductions⁴

Wider Accountability

Added new areas such as packaging and mobile devices to their impact of business

Zero Waste Operations

90%

Diversion of waste from landfill from past three years⁵

Etsy has already overachieved its impact targets and has set ambitious targets for the future

Achievements Ahead on Time

Contribution to US economy in 2020 \$13B

Etsy has already met its 2023 goal to double

US seller's economic output1

Sourcing of its electricity from renewable energy, 100%

Meeting its 2020 goals and becoming carbon

neutral1

New Targets for Stakeholders

Absolute reduction in Scope 1 and 2, and 13.5% 50% absolute reduction in Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions by 20301.

The percentage of US employees who identify as Black, Latinx or Native American by 2023 2.

Impact of Investing in Etsy



Our state employees could expect 30% of returns for their pensions



Create additional jobs in the United States



Stimulate local economy growth



Reduce GHG emissions through green operations and investment

Etsy Scoring



	Positive Status	Negative Status
Positive Outlook	А	В
Negative Outlook	В	С

Criteria	Score	Criteria	Score
Economic	Α	Suppliers	Α
Socio-Cultural	Α	Community	Α
Political	В	Environment	Α
Legal	N/A	Customers	Α
Technological	Α	Shareholders	В
Financial Merit	A	ESG Performance	A

Investment Principles

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Conclusion

Recap

Shein

Epitome of **immorality** of fast fashion and fashion industry

Profitability at the price of marginalized stakeholders along the value chain

Unsustainable growth fueled by consumerist obsession

Industry Analysis

Challenging macro conditions with diminishing margins and increasing costs

Rise of sustainability and increasingly conscious consumers

Demanding regulators on labor and environment issues

Investment Decision

No investment in apparel companies, but in Etsy

Aim for considerable financial returns and positive stakeholder impact

Investment Principles

Company

Industry

Alternative



Thank you

Appendix

Analysis Criteria Explained

Financial Opportunity / Risks

Economic

Revenue / profit growth / decline

Political

Trade war, currency valuation

Legal

Regulation, labor laws

Socio-Cultural

Change in trends, Higher awareness of relevant values

Technological

Efficiency boost from tech development, Supply chain failure

Stakeholder Impact

Customers

Customer privacy, transparent communication, beneficial products

Suppliers

Fair wage, worker health and safety, diverse workplace

Community

Local job creation, Community contribution

Shareholders

Returns for investors

Environment

Sustainable practices, combat climate change, minimize pollution

Transparency Requirements – SASB and GRI

What is SASB?

"SASB Standards guide the disclosure of financially material sustainability information by companies to their investors. Available for 77 industries, the Standards identify the subset of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues most relevant to financial performance in each industry.

SASB Standards are maintained under the auspices of the Value Reporting Foundation, a global nonprofit organization that offers a comprehensive suite of resources designed to help businesses and investors develop a shared understanding of enterprise value—how it is created, preserved, or eroded." - sasb.org, "About Us"

What is GRI?

"GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) is the independent, international organization that helps businesses and other organizations take responsibility for their impacts, by providing them with the global common language to communicate those impacts. We provide the world's most widely used standards for sustainability reporting – the GRI Standards.

The GRI secretariat is headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and we have a network of seven regional hubs ensuring we can support organizations and stakeholders worldwide." - globalreporting.org, "About GRI"



►a VF Corporation sustainability report following SASB standards



Alternative

Transparency Requirements – Spotlight Metrics

Stakeholder	ESG Performance Indicator	Disclosure or Metric (Reporting Standard, Code)
Suppliers	Audit for labor code of conduct	 Percentage of (1) tier 1 suppliers and (2) suppliers beyond tier 1 that have been audited to a labor code of conduct, percentage conducted by a third-party auditor (SASB, CN0501-05)
Jopphers	Local procurement operations	 Percentage of the procurement budget used for significant locations of operation that is spent on suppliers local to that operation (such as percentage of products and services purchased locally). (GRI, Disclosure 204-1 a.)
Environment	Raw material sourcing	 Top five raw materials used in products, by weight (SASB, CN0501-03) Total weight or volume of materials that are used to produce and package the organization's primary products and services during the reporting period (GRI, Disclosure 301-1 a.)
Environment	Packaging volume Wastewater discharge	 Percentage of (1) tier 1 supplier facilities and (2) supplier facilities beyond tier 1 with wastewater discharge meeting or exceeding legal requirements (SASB, CN0501-08) Percentage of suppliers with significant water-related impacts from water discharge that have set minimum standards for the quality of their effluent discharge. (GRI, Disclosure 303-4 2.4.3)
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Investment Principles

Company

Industry

Alternative

Value Segments

Definition

The company segmentation based on a Sales Price Index, which provides a range of prices for a standard basket of products within each segment and company's home market.

The companies in the McKinsey
Global Fashion Index and the BoF
McKinsey State of Fashion Survey are categorized into six segments, which are based on a price index across a wide basket of goods and geographies.

The segments range from lowest to highest price segment: discount, value, mid-market, premium/bridge, affordable luxury, luxury.

How is Outdoor Fast Fashion?

Sportswear makers traditionally operate on a seasonal business model, designing two main collections a year to 18 months before they hit the shelves.

But Adidas ... wants to shift towards fast fashion as pioneered by Inditex's Zara, which delivers new styles to its stores twice a week.

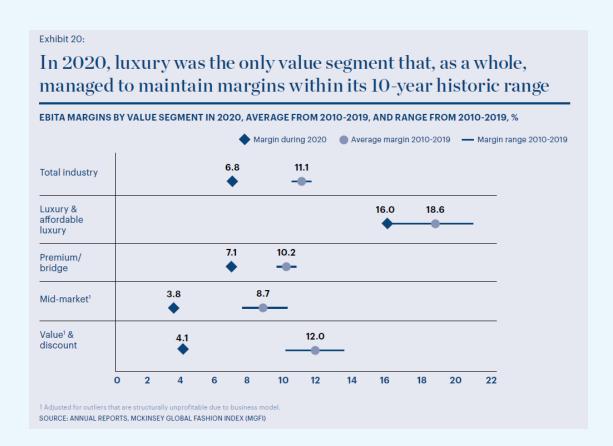
"In the athletic industry, no-one is fast at what they are doing, so there is an opportunity to gain a competitive advantage by being faster at what we do," Glenn Bennett, head of global operations for Adidas, told Reuters in an interview.

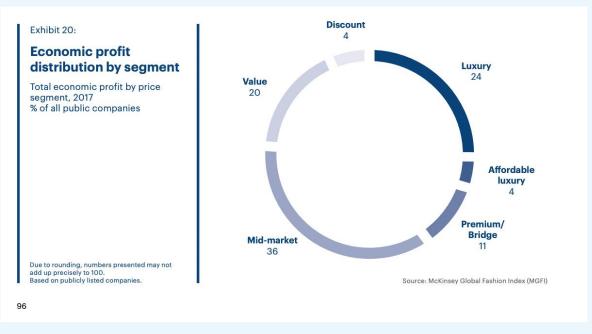
"We're not out there to compete with the likes of H&M and Zara in the pure sense, but if they are going to dig into our territory ... we are going to dig into that territory with what we have to offer." – Reuters (2015)

Mid-market Struggles

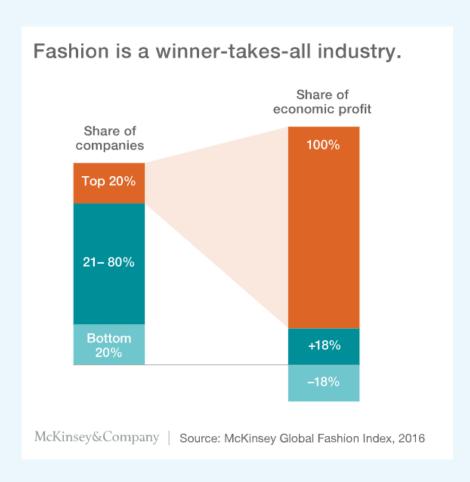
"Mid-market retail is a somewhat lackluster term that would best describe retailers struggling to find their purpose or niche in a market that seeks focus, entertainment and attitude," says Alison Cardy, MD of HMKM, which works with Selfridges, Debenhams and Primark among others. In other words, differentiation is key.

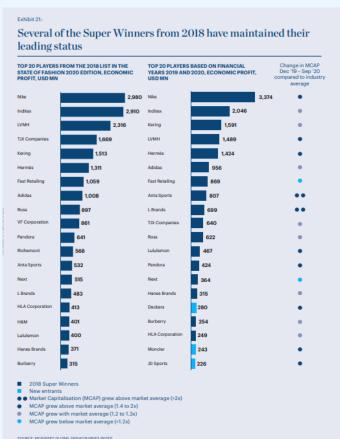
Profit Margins and Distribution by Value Segment





Profit Dominance of Top 20 Apparel Companies





Investment Principles

Company

Industry

Alternative

Why apparel companies lost profitability during the pandemic, and why luxury remained resilient

Falling revenue but steady costs

Margins in segments other than luxury were under pressure in 2020, trending below historic ranges. Companies in the value and discount segment lost around 17 percent from 2019¹. While weak consumption due to the pandemic hammered revenues, their reliance on physical store networks prevented operating costs from reducing in line with the revenues. In other words, stores were costing the same amount to keep open even while people bought a fraction of what they used to.

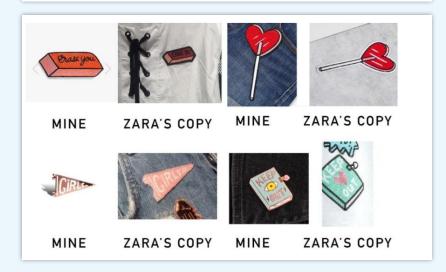
Steady revenue and controlled costs

Luxury revenue fared relatively well, with the smallest revenue declines in 2020 compared with other segments. The two key factors behind resilient revenues were a **strong Chinese market and wealth consumers** spending more on luxury goods. Their wealthy customers, whose earnings were less impacted by the pandemic, reallocated money saved from expensive vacations towards clothing and accessories. Successfully transitioning to a business with more focus on digital distribution channels also factored in.

Another factor was **cost control**, where the luxury segment successfully maintained costs roughly in line with revenues. Their portion of SG&A costs compared to revenue did not rise as much as other segments, with only 1.4 percentage points increasing compared to the value and discount segment's 4². However, this was a direct result of not losing as much operating efficiency due to relatively strong demand.

Fast Fashion Design Plagiarism: Negligence

Tuesday Bassen vs. Zara



Stella McCartney vs. Asos



Tra My Nguyen vs. Balenciaga

Balenciaga sent a "recruiter" to a Berlin art school, then replicated her work

Artist Tra My Nguyen, then a student at Berlin University of the Arts, was approached by a "recruiter" from Balenciaga, who then solicited her portfolio not once, but twice.



Investment Principles

Company

Industry

Alternative

Industry-Wide Labor Trafficking

Labor Brokers in SE Asia¹

Patagonia found that **labor brokers** were charging workers **astronomical sums for the service**—as much as \$7,000, well over the legal limit. In addition, many workers are charged a **monthly fee just to hold onto their jobs**, a practice which is also considered legal. Often, between the illegally high initial fees and monthly fees, many employees find themselves in so much debt that they are unable to repay brokers with the meager \$630-a-month salaries (the required minimum wage) that factories pay.

Whole Industry Problem

The audits examined not Patagonia's first-tier suppliers—the factories that cut, sew, and assemble Patagonia's products—but the mills that take raw materials and produce the fabrics and other parts that later become jackets, backpacks, and so on for the world's adventuring class. About one-quarter of those mills are based in Taiwan, and the majority were found to have instances of trafficking and exploitation.¹

Luxury Working Conditions

Utthan Pact (2016)

In 2016, a group of luxury houses introduced the **Utthan pact**, an ambitious and secretive compliance project aimed at ensuring factory safety in Mumbai and elevating Indian embroiderers. Among the signatories were **Kering** (owner of labels including Gucci and Saint Laurent); LVMH Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (owner of Fendi and Christian Dior); and two British fashion houses, Burberry and **Mulberry**. The pact had an initial three-year timeline but was not legally binding.1

Working Conditions Reality

The New York Times found that embroiderers still completed orders at unregulated facilities that did not meet Indian factory safety laws. Many workers still do not have any employment benefits or protections, while seasonal demands for thousands of hours of overtime would coincide with the latest fashion weeks in Europe. Several factory owners said that membership in the pact meant investing in the costly compliance standards outlined by the Utthan pact, while brands simultaneously drove down what they would pay for orders. ¹

Luxury Brand Response

"We recognize that the situation of some workers at the subcontracting level is still very far from satisfying today, and we are genuinely determined to strengthen the program with our fellow stakeholders, to speed up progress and to further improve the situation"

-Kering

"We take the allegations raised through your questions very seriously but are unable to comment without further details and a thorough investigation."

- LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton

Greenwashing examples

H&M's "Conscious" Pinatex

In April 2019, Swedish fashion giant Hennes & Mauritz (H&M) introduced its 'Conscious Collection' featuring leather-like Pinatex products, made from orange peelings and pineapple leaves.

However, one can question Pinatex's legitimacy as 'sustainable' and 'ecofriendly' since it **contains plastic and petroleum-based agents** that offset any probable positive, eco-friendly impact of utilising fruit fibres and makes it non-biodegradable.¹

Lack of Transparency

One of the major failings among fashion brands is their lack of evidence to support their sustainability claims, said the report.

Some products, for instance, were labelled as "responsible" but did not specify the quantity of recycled content.

Among some of the worst-performing brands that have "minimum to no transparency" over their use of synthetic fibres include Primark, Boohoo, Nike and surprisingly, Patagonia.

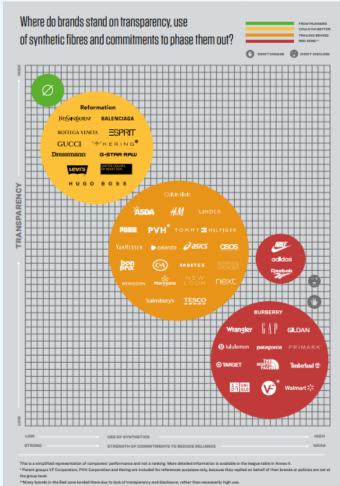
Criticism on Patagonia

Patagonia had refused to respond to **Changing Markets'** survey and failed to disclose its use of synthetics.

Patagonia was also put under the spotlight for its replacement of virgin polyester with recycled ocean plastics. The report criticized the approach as one that "does little to stop the flow of plastics into the environment and only deals with the aftermath of the plastic pollution problem."

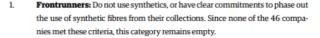
Findings from Changing Markets Report





The analysis was conducted between 29 March and 20 April 2021, and included a total of **12 different fashion brands.** The research objective was to analyse a broad spectrum of the international fashion market – from luxury houses to supermarket retailers, ultra-fast-fashion brands and high-street names. The analysis ... was based on publicly available information.







Could do better: Transparent about use, and either already use relatively few synthetics (under 25% of their total material use) or have clear plans to reduce their reliance on synthetics.



Trailing behind: Limited transparency about use, and either use a high percentage of synthetics or a relatively low - but rising - percentage.



. Red zone: Little to no transparency at all.

Disclosures Required by Changing Markets Report

Disclosure on your synthetic fibre use and policies

We are writing to ask you to increase transparency about your use, business practices and policies around synthetic fibres in your clothes by filling in the following questionnaire.

1. How much synthetic fibre do you use?

- · How many tonnes of synthetic fibre do you use per year?
- What percentage of your textile products are made of synthetic fibres, whether as
 part of a blend with other fibres or as the sole constituent? Please break down your
 answer by synthetic fibre type (e.g. polyester, acrylic, nylon).
- Have you increased your use of synthetic fibres in recent years? And do you foresee an increase/decrease in the future?
- · Please specify which, if any, of this information is public on your website.

2. Who supplies your synthetic fibres?

- Please specify your suppliers of synthetic fibres, if possible broken down by fibre type. If possible, please include names and locations of factories, including tier 3 and 4 (raw material stage) suppliers.
- · Please specify which, if any, of this information is public on your website.

3. How much of the synthetic fibre used in your products is recycled?

- What percentage of your textile products are made from recycled polyester/nylon or other synthetic materials?
- · What is the production method behind this recycling?
- What feedstock is used for this recycled product (e.g. PET bottles, fishing nets, recycled clothing...)? Where there is more than one feedstock, please specify percentages.
- Are you investing in fibre-to-fibre recycling technologies? Please specify which.
- · What percentage of your clothing is currently recycled into new clothing?

4. Do you have commitments to phase out synthetic materials based on fossil feedstocks?

- Do you have any policies or commitments to decrease or phase out reliance on synthetic fibre use in the future? If so, please specify the plan and the timeline.
- Are you exploring or adopting an alternative business model to move away from fast fashion?
- · Please specify which, if any, of this information is public on your website.

5. Do you have policies addressing end-of-life management of synthetic fibres?

- . This may include, for example, policies or commitments to:
 - Address microfibre release, such as by pre-washing textile products before sale, or reducing/phasing out synthetics in your products
 - Promote durability of textile products and encourage reuse, such as by offering repairs or longer warranties to customers
 - Design your textile products to be more recyclable, for example by eliminating the use of fibre blends which currently cannot be separated on a large scale.
 - Make investments into the separate collection of used textiles for reuse, repair and recycling, or other creative ways to reduce fibre consumption
- Do you have ambitious climate or circularity targets that apply across all production ranges and cover your entire supply chain?

We would appreciate it if you could reply to this letter by Friday 9th April 2021 by either email or this online form, which allows you to input your answers directly.

If you have any additional questions, or would like to organise a meeting or a call with our team, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Please note we will also send this letter by email.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Urška Trunk
Campaign Manager
Changing Markets

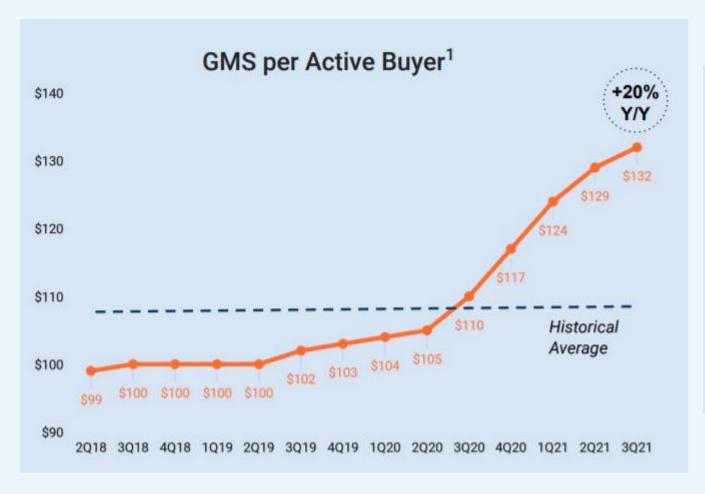
Virginia López Calvo Senior Campaigner WeMove Europe Anastasiia Martynenko Head Zero Waste Alliance Ukraine

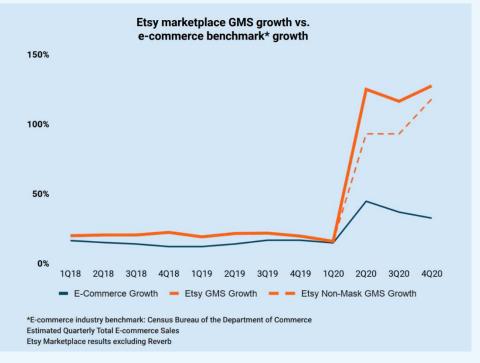
Sarah Ditty Policy Director Fashion Revolution Muriel Papin Founder No Plastic In My Sea Paul Roeland
Transparency Lead
Clean Clothes Campaign

Rob Harrison Director Ethical Consumer Laura Diaz Sánchez Campaigner Microplastics Plastic Soup Foundation Gary Cook Climate Campaigns Director

Stand.earth

ETSY GMS Growth





What can Etsy do with Depop? 1) Etsy helping Depop

Efficient operations

Many of the challenges that Depop faces have already been tackled by Etsy, such as **search and discover algorithms**

Etsy's acquisition will help with **policing**, **technology investment**, **training**, **fraud detection and seller/buyer protection**

Grow the Fashion resale market

The second-hand clothing market, currently valued at \$30-40 billion worldwide, will grow by 15-20 percent a year for the next decade¹

Etsy can help **Depop widen its appeal to older buyers** who can afford to buy new but don't want to for environmental reasons

With Etsy's support, Depop can gain **international credibility** and sign up with more brands to expand its operations²

What can Etsy do with Depop? 2) Depop helping Etsy

Grow Etsy's foothold on Gen Z

Efficient operations

90%

Depop's active users are under 26, while Etsy's average seller is 39 years old¹

10th

The most visited shopping site among gen Z consumers in the US is Depop²

Depop's collection of **thrifted and vintage** lends a new layer of trendiness to Etsy.

Young sellers could also help Etsy acquire **Gen Z** entrepreneurs.

Etsy would also learn from Depop's mobile expertise and social media savvy

On TikTok, Etsy has about 16,000 followers, while Depop has more than 140,0003

"Depop offers the aesthetic of Instagram with the functionality of eBay, designed with younger, social media-savvy users in mind. It cements the emerging importance of social networks as a purchasing tool…in a multichannel world." 4

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis of Etsy

Assumptions															
WACC	7.20	% source : https://finbo	x.com/NASDAC	GS:ETSY/models/	wacc										
Terminal Growth Rate	2	%													
Risk Free Rate	1.9	92													
Beta	1.0	68													
cost of equity (Ke)		cost of debt (Kd)													
Equity	742	Debt	1,115.82												
			5	source : https://www	w.sec.gov/Archiv	ves/edgar/data/1	370637/00013706	3721000012/ets	y-20201231.htm#	i8205a65267ed4	d26b43ace50696	8e333 76			
in millions		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
Revenue		604	818	1,726	1,957	2,290	2,840	3,521	4,225	4,986	5,883	6,825	7,780	8,714	
% growth					13.40%	17.00%	24%	24%	20%	18%	18%	16%	14%	12%	
EBIT		75	93	426	391.4568	458.004456	567.9255254	704.2276515	845.0731819	997.1863546	1176.679898	1364.948682	1556.041498	1742.766477	
% of revenue		12.42%	11.37%	24.68%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	
(-) Taxes		-22	-15	16	18	20.61020052	25.55664864	31.69024432	38.02829318	44.87338596	52.95059543	61.4226907	70.02186739	78.42449148	
% tax rate					4.50%										
EBIAT		97	108	410	374	437.3942555	542.3688768	672.5374072	807.0448887	952.3129686	1123.729303	1303.525991	1486.01963	1664.341986	
(+) D&A		26.74	48.03	58.19	44.32	50.18	50.90	48.47	49.85	49.74	49.35	49.64	49.58	49.52	
(-) CapEx		56.05	17.24	7.99	27.09	17.44	17.51	20.68	18.54	18.91	19.38	18.94	19.08	19.13	
(-) Change in Net Working	g Capital	59	9.994	124.197	65	66.23444444	84.98125926	72	74.37501646	77.08854047	74	75.30706371	75.61774613	75	
															terminal growth g=2%
Unlevered FCF		9	129	336	327	403.90	490.78	628.41	763.97	906.05	1079.24	1258.92	1440.90	1619.60	31769.1727
Present value of FCF						376.7711753	427.0648878	510.1062373	539.640577	686.0773905	711.1326071	773.8101319	826.1823095	866.2754549	16992.32623

Discounted Cash Flow Analysis of Etsy

Enterprise Value	22709.387
Cash	1,244
Debt	1,662
Equity value	22,291
Shares Outstanding	121251588
Target Share Price	183.8440829
Current Share Price	141.77
Expected Returns	29.68%

Our Growth and Profitability Assumptions

Pull-forward in demand

Etsy's guidance estimates 13.40% and 17%¹ growth for the next two years, a much more muted figure compared to last year's three digits. We believe that after these two years of giving back some of the pull-forward in demand during the pandemic, Etsy will return to a midpoint of around 24%, a figure that would continue the long-term growth trend.

Conservative view on Margins

While it is difficult to compare Etsy's unique business model focused on vintage and handmade goods, a precedent in the social commerce business, Ebay, allows us to estimate margins. While EBIT margins have been in a long-term uptrend, we do not expect it to continue as Etsy will have to offer competitive prices of their service to hold a dominant position in the social commerce industry.