## MARKETBEAT SEOUL RETAIL Q3 2024





# MARKET FUNDAMENTALS 12-Month YOY Forecast 17.1% Vacancy Rate -1.9% Retail Sales Growth 100.0 **Consumer Composite** Sentiment Index (CCSI) **ECONOMIC INDICATORS** YOY 12-Month Forecast 2.3% **GDP** Growth 1.6% **CPI Growth** 1.9% **Unemployment Rate** Source: Korean Statistical Information Service,

Bank Of Korea

## **ECONOMY**

The Consumer Confidence Sentiment Index (CCSI) recorded 100.0 in September 2024, down 0.8 p from the prior month. This drop aligned with a 3-year, 7-month low in consumer price inflation, now at 1.6%. Despite slower inflation, concerns about delayed domestic demand recovery persist, keeping consumer sentiment modestly subdued for a second consecutive month. Retail sales also shifted from a 1.7% rise in August to a 0.4% decline in September, largely due to reduced spending on F&B and apparel.

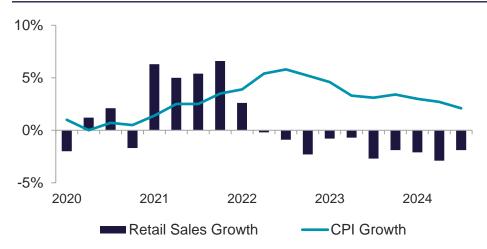
#### FRAGRANCE SECTOR EXPANSION IN KEY SEOUL DISTRICTS

Seoul's high street retail market remained active with new store openings in Q3, helping to pull the vacancy rate down by 1.5% from earlier in the year to 17.1%. However, despite many new store launches, the fall in vacancy has been quite modest, with new brands often replacing departing ones rather than filling vacant spaces.

The fragrance sector is showing notable activity in key areas. In Garosu-gil, despite a high vacancy rate, brands including Maison Margiela Fragrance, Byredo, Diptyque, and Nonfiction have opened stores in the past year. Since Aesop's entry in 2014, brands such as Le Labo and Tamburins have followed, strengthening the area's fragrance market. In Seongsu, brands such as Aesop and Le Labo led the way, with recent additions from Tamburins, Lush, and Nonfiction. Kinfolk has also expanded its presence, operating three stores within Seongsu, reflecting growing interest in fragrances from both locals and tourists. Other areas such as Cheongdam, Hannam, and Itaewon are also seeing entries from niche fragrance brands.

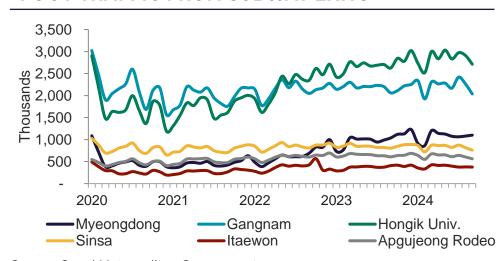
Fragrance brands, traditionally operating in department stores, are also increasingly expanding into street-level retail to engage customers directly and offer unique in-store experiences. These brands are creating sensory spaces that go beyond scent testing, focusing on brand identity and philosophy. According to Euromonitor, the global fragrance market grew by approximately 14% in 2023, driven by increased demand despite economic downturns, fueled by the lipstick effect and the Little Luxuries trend. Niche fragrances are particularly popular with younger consumers, and product lines are diversifying with items such as diffusers and body care. Major domestic fashion brands are expanding into this market, while international brands are increasingly targeting South Korea for its growth potential.

## **RETAIL SALES GROWTH & CPI GROWTH**



Source: Korean Statistical Information Service

### **FOOT TRAFFIC FROM SUBWAY EXITS**



Source: Seoul Metropolitan Government

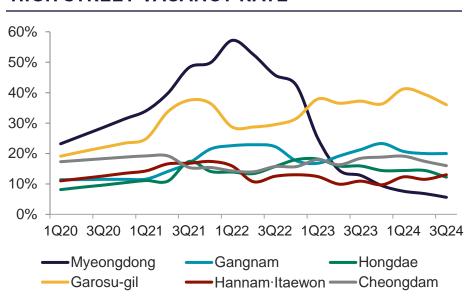
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## SEOUL RETAIL Q3 2024

## **MARKET STATISTICS**

| SUBMARKET      | Q3 2024<br>VACANCY<br>RATE | Q2 2024<br>VACANCY<br>RATE | % POINT<br>CHANGE<br>QOQ | Q3 2023<br>VACANCY<br>RATE | % POINT<br>CHANGE<br>YOY |
|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Myeongdong     | 5.6%                       | 6.8%                       | -1.2%                    | 12.8%                      | -7.2%                    |
| Gangnam        | 20.0%                      | 20.0%                      | 0.0%                     | 21.3%                      | -1.3%                    |
| Hongdae        | 12.2%                      | 14.4%                      | -2.2%                    | 15.9%                      | -3.7%                    |
| Garosu-gil     | 36.0%                      | 39.4%                      | -3.4%                    | 37.2%                      | -1.2%                    |
| Hannam·Itaewon | 13.0%                      | 11.5%                      | 1.4%                     | 10.9%                      | 2.1%                     |
| Cheongdam      | 16.0%                      | 17.4%                      | -1.4%                    | 18.4%                      | -2.4%                    |
| TOTALS         | 17.1%                      | 18.3%                      | -1.1%                    | 19.4%                      | -2.3%                    |

#### HIGH STREET VACANCY RATE



## **KEY LEASE TRANSACTIONS / NEW FLAGSHIPS Q3 2024**

| PROPERTY TYPE | SUBMARKET        | TENANT                    | ESTIMATED SQM | CATEGORY | STATUS       |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| High Street   | Myeongdong       | Covernat                  | 830           | Fashion  | Newly-opened |
| High Street   | Myeongdong       | Ppeum Clinic              | 2,680         | Medical  | Scheduled    |
| High Street   | Gangnam          | Spao                      | 630           | Fashion  | Newly-opened |
| High Street   | Garosu-gil       | Maison Margiela Fragrance | 150           | Beauty   | Newly-opened |
| High Street   | Hannam·Itaewon   | Maison Margiela           | 400           | Luxury   | Newly-opened |
| High Street   | Hannam·Itaewon   | MLB                       | 730           | Sports   | Newly-opened |
| High Street   | Seongsu          | Musinsa                   | 700           | Fashion  | Newly-opened |
| High Street   | Seongsu          | New Balance               | 750           | Sports   | Newly-opened |
| High Street   | Dosan Park       | Matin Kim                 | 1,200         | Fashion  | Newly-opened |
| Shopping Mall | Lotte World Mall | Uniqlo                    | 3,490         | Fashion  | Newly-opened |

## **KEY CONSTRUCTION COMPLETIONS / UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

| PROPERTY                   | LOCATION | SQM     | COMPLETION DATE |
|----------------------------|----------|---------|-----------------|
| Starfield Suwon            | Suwon    | 329,000 | Jan 2024        |
| Inspire Entertainment Mall | Incheon  | 151,300 | Mar 2024        |
| Magok One Grove Mall       | Seoul    | 145,200 | Feb 2025        |
| Starfield Village Unjeong  | Paju     | 92,000  | 2025            |

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