# **Market Intelligence Digest**

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The Department of Trade and Industry - Export Marketing Bureau (DTI-EMB) is mandated to oversee the development, promotion and monitoring of Philippine exports. The DTI-EMB provides the exporters the enabling environment to make them globally competitive.

#### **Export Marketing Bureau**

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## **Express Convenience**

7-Eleven Express is an unmanned convenience store that features vending machines, microwaves, and a hot water dispenser.



The store is designed as a 10-meter long express train and consists of five vending machines with 200 products, which are divided into five categories: drinks, snacks, prepared meals, processed food, and non-food products.

Consumers can make a purchase by inputting the product number into the machine or selecting items from the central kiosk, and pay via a prepaid transit card or credit card, but not cash.

### **Convenient retail**

In recent years, South Korean convenience stores have benefited as the number of one-person households surged. The country's convenience store industry grew 14% year-on-year to ₩23 trillion in 2017. There were 39,740 franchise convenience stores in 2017, compared with 24,859 in 2013, according to official data from the Fair Trade Commission.

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Calculations based on the data showed that the country had one convenience store for every 1,417 people, compared with one store for every 2,226 people in Japan, where the industry took root long before South Korea.

We've seen more and more convenience retailers adopting new technology to upgrade the shopping experience. For example, FamilyMart is piloting a new store concept that incorporates a range of digital technology, including robot staff, virtual reality interfaces, and smart shelves; 7-Eleven has rolled out facial recognition; and convenience store chain SPH Buzz has launched a new hybrid vending store in Singapore that accepts mobile payments.

Convenience stores in South Korea have evolved into foodservice destinations, providing quick and ready-to-eat meal solutions for busy or budget-conscious consumers. Indeed, sales of budget lunchboxes at convenience stores have been growing and are expected to generate \#350 billion by the end of 2018. Convenience retailers that are able to satisfy consumer demand for quick, convenient, and affordable meal solutions will likely be appreciated.

In South Korea, there were **39,740 franchise convenience store** in 2017, compared with 24,859 in 2013. Fair Trade Commission

## **Supported Trends**

Who Needs Humans?: Automated technology has machines increasingly replacing people – for better or worse.

Buzz: 5

Lifecycle: Mainstreaming

**Cool Vending:** Consumer expectations about what, when, and where they can buy have changed vending machines forever.

Buzz: 1

Lifecycle: Established

