



QUICK TAKE

Weekly Store Openings and Closures Tracker #30: Walgreens to Close 600 Stores; Lloyds Pharmacy to Close 190 Stores

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FGRT tracks store openings and closures for a select group of retailers in the US and the UK.

- 1) Year-to-date 2017, the number of store closure announcements in the US has increased 203% year over year, bringing the total number of stores to be closed to 6,121.
- 2) **Walgreens** plans to close around 600 Rite Aid stores, starting next spring.
- 3) **Hudson's Bay Company** announced that its CEO will step down effective November 1. The company has sold its Lord & Taylor flagship Fifth Avenue store to WeWork.
- 4) **Toys"R"Us** has received court approval for \$3.1 billion of new financing.
- 5) Year to date in the UK, there have been 854 store closure announcements from major retailers, significantly lower on a year-over-year basis. The 750 store openings, however, are a slight increase compared to 2016.
- 6) **Lloyds Pharmacy** announced it will close 190 stores.



2017 Major US Store Openings and Closures

FGRT has a dedicated team tracking news about store closures and openings, bankruptcies and management changes. Our *Weekly Store Openings and Closures Tracker* focuses on department stores and specialty retail, including, but not limited to, softlines, hardlines, consumer electronics and furniture.

What Is Happening this Week in the US?

Walgreens to Close Around 600 Rite Aid Stores, Starting Next Spring

Walgreens Boots Alliance (WBA) plans to close about 600 drugstores, as it completes its acquisition of Rite Aid stores, according to a company spokesperson. The stores set to be closed were chosen due to overlap with another Rite Aid or Walgreens location. We have not included this 600-store number into our estimate for total store closures announcements for 2017, since the closings will not take place until next spring and will be completed over an 18-month period.

Non-Store Closure News

Hudson's Bay Company CEO Steps Down

Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) announced that Jerry Storch will step down as CEO, effective November 1, 2017. Richard Baker, Governor and Executive Chairman of HBC, will take over the role until a permanent replacement is found.

Hudson's Bay Company Sells Lord & Taylor Fifth Avenue Flagship Building to WeWork

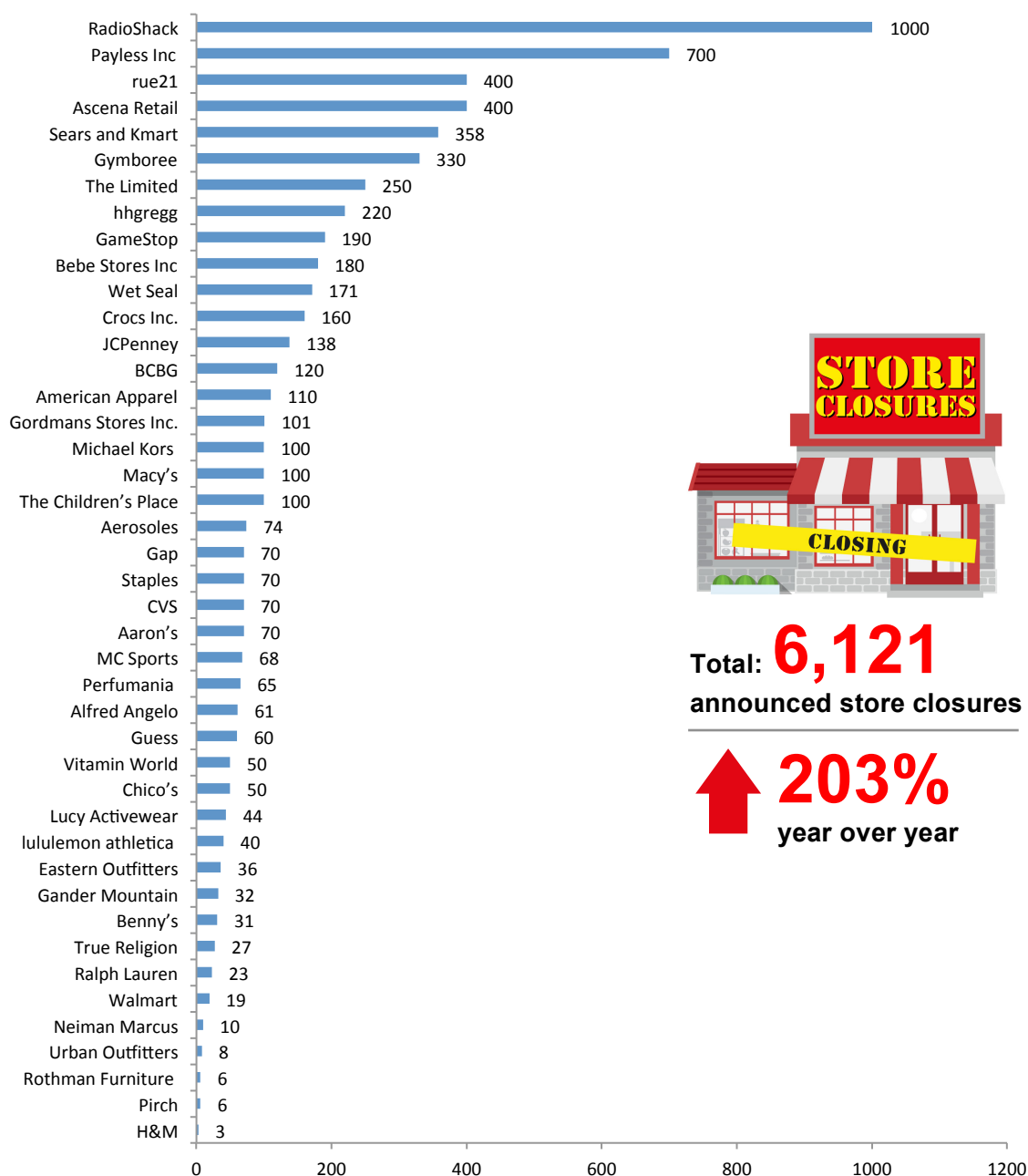
Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) has entered into a strategic partnership with office-sharing company WeWork. HBC will sell its New York City flagship Lord & Taylor store to WeWork Property Advisors in a transaction valued at \$850 million. The Lord & Taylor store is to be converted into WeWork's New York headquarters, WeWork office space and a redesigned smaller Lord & Taylor store of approximately 150,000 square feet. See our recent report: [Hudson's Bay Company and WeWork Redefine the Traditional Department Store](#)

Toys“R”Us Receives Court Approval for \$3.1 Billion of New Financing

Toys“R”Us announced that the US Bankruptcy Court had entered a final order granting the company \$3.1 billion in debtor-in-possession financing. The financing is meant to keep the company stocked and operating as normal through the upcoming holiday season and beyond.



Year-to-Date 2017 Major US Store Closure Announcements

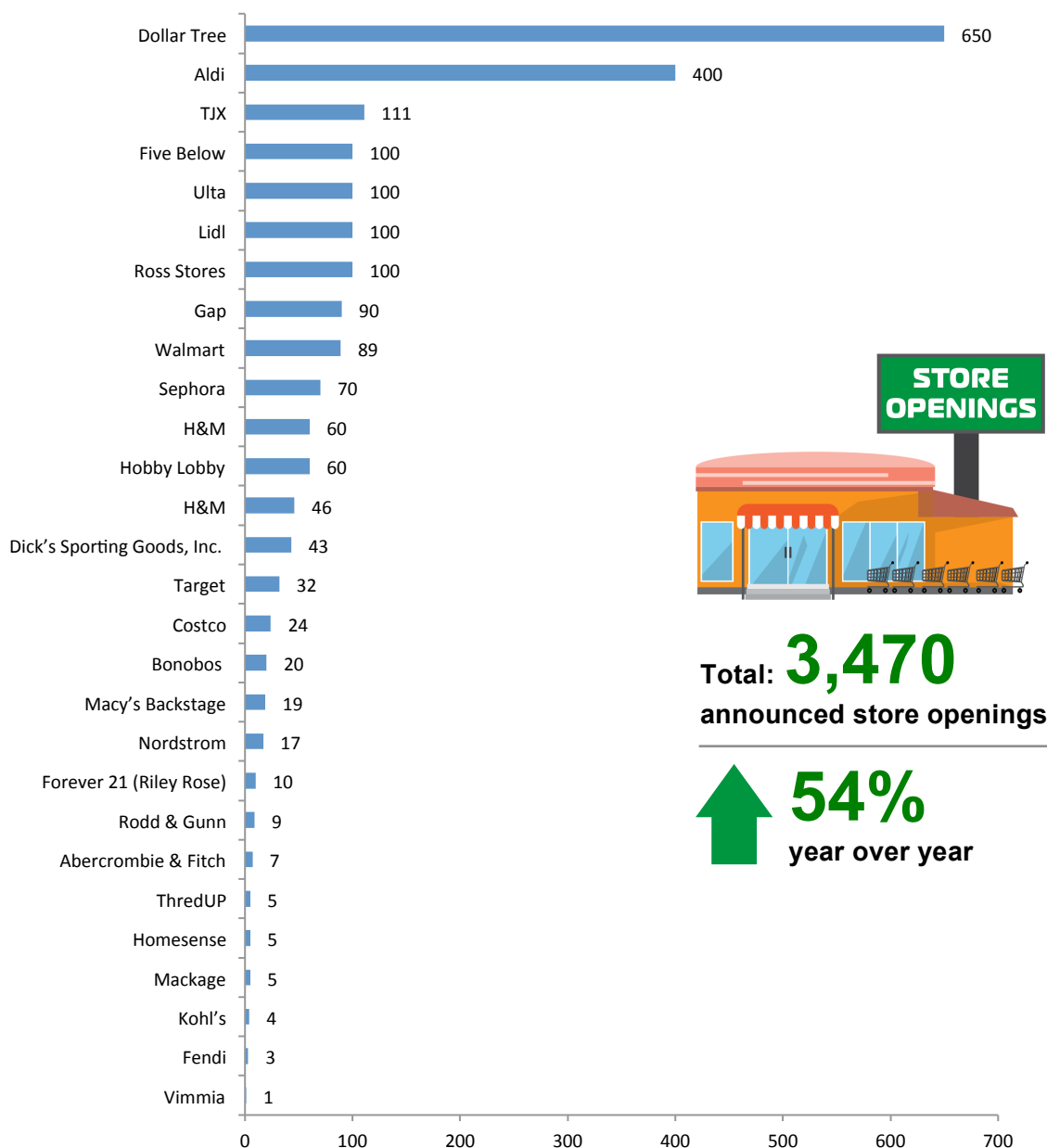


The Children's Place will close 300 stores by 2020. *Ralph Lauren's* store closing number was part of the 50-store closure plan announced in June 2016. *Ascena* will close between 268 and 667 stores by July 2019, depending on negotiations with landlords. *Gap* will close 200 stores by 2020. *Urban Outfitters* plans to close eight to nine stores in 2017. *Vitamin World* will close at least 50 stores.

Source: Company reports/FGRT



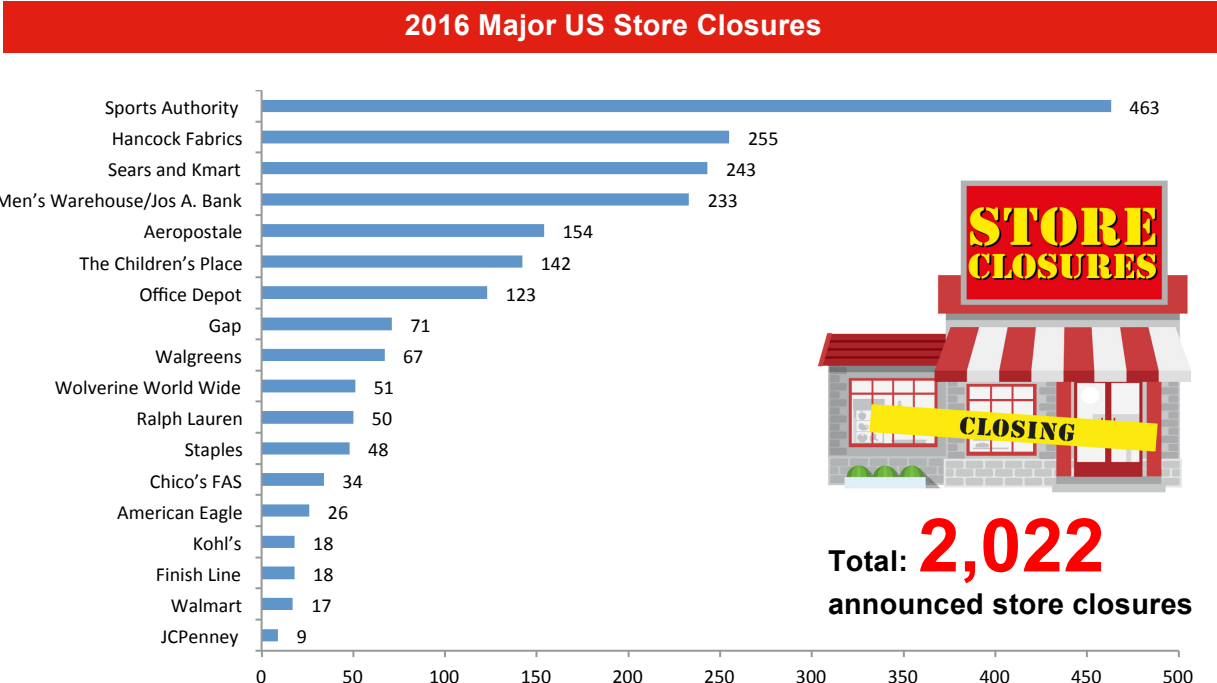
Year-to-Date 2017 Major US Store Opening Announcements



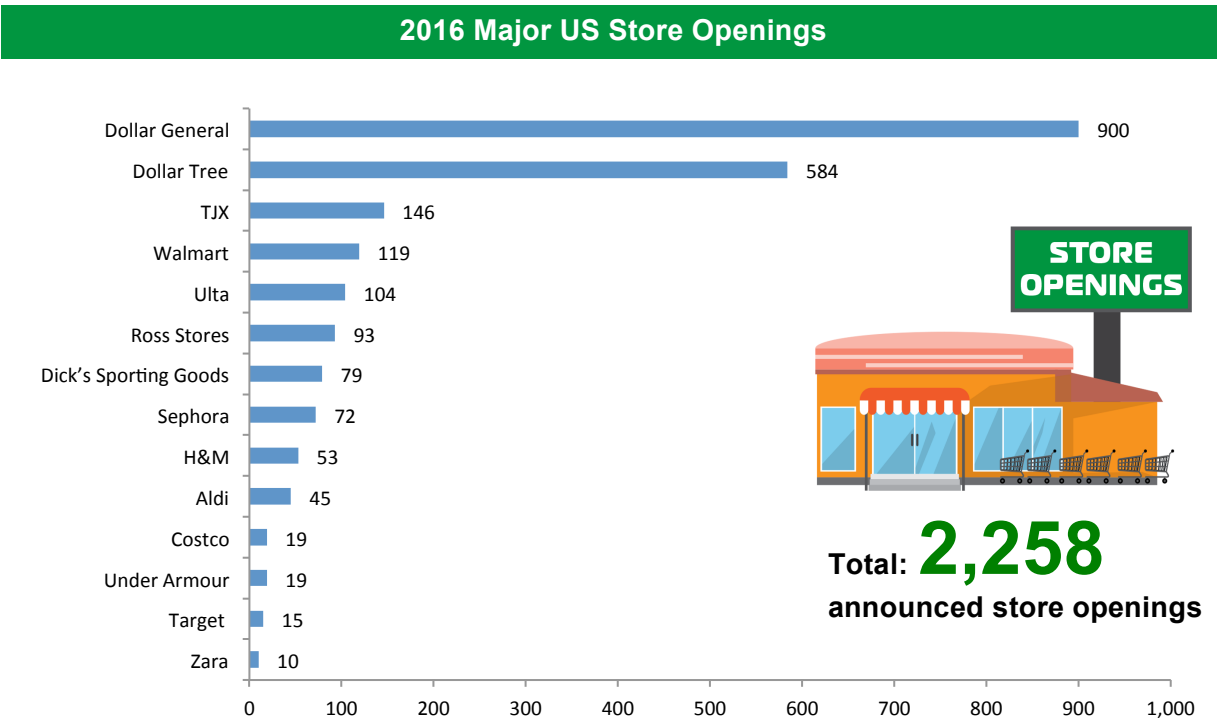
Aldi will complete a 400-store expansion by the end of 2018. **Target** is only opening stores in small format. **Macy's Backstage** will be opened within existing full-line Macy's stores. **Rodd & Gunn** to open 8–10 stores by the end of 2018. **Mackage** plans to operate 25 stores across North America in the next five years. **Gap** will open 270 stores by 2020. **Costco** has opened 26 stores net for the fiscal year ended September 2017, and plans to open 25 stores net for fiscal year 2018.

Source: Company reports/FGRT

2016 Major US Store Openings and Closures



Source: Company reports/FGRT



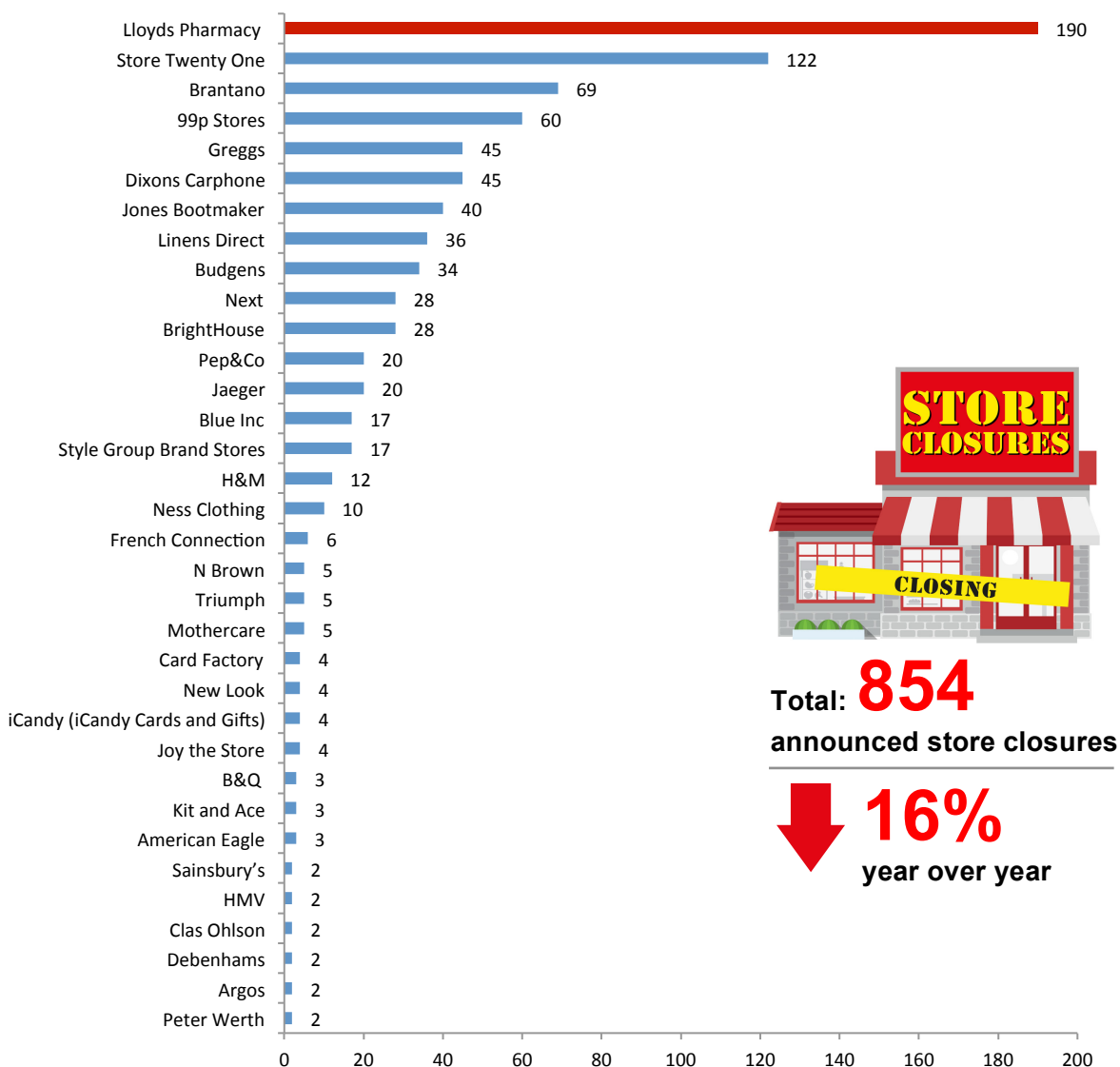
Source: Company reports/FGRT

2017 Major UK Store Openings and Closures

Lloyds Pharmacy to Close 190 Stores

Lloyds Pharmacy announced it will close 190 stores across England because of government cuts, business rates and the apprenticeship levy. The retailer has yet to announce a possible timeline for the closures.

Year-to-Date 2017 Major UK Store Closure Announcements*

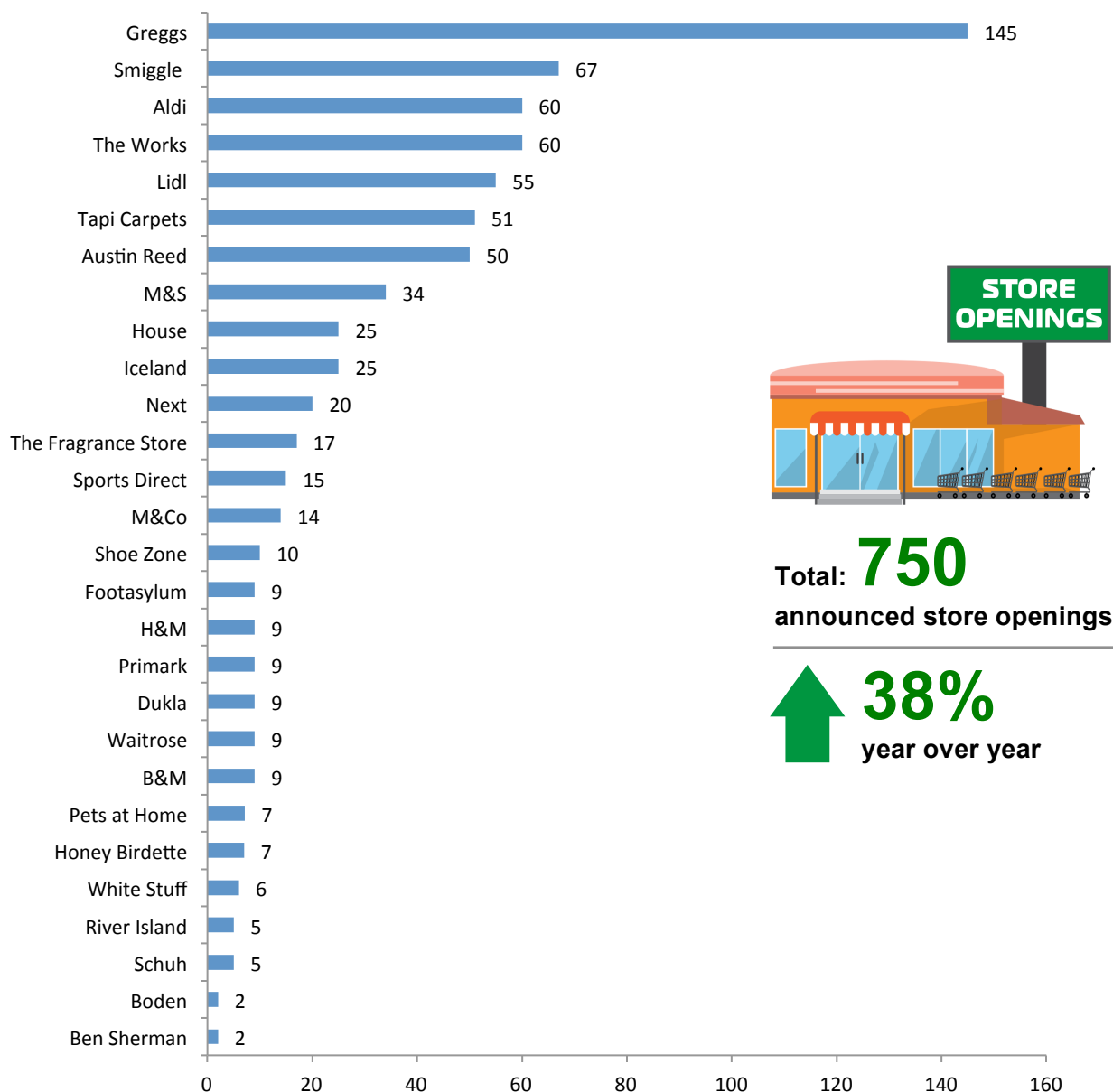


* The chart only shows selected retailers.

Greggs expects to close 40–50 stores by the end of 2017.

Source: Company reports/FGRT

Year-to-Date 2017 Major UK Store Opening Announcements*



* The chart only shows selected retailers.

FGRT has calendarized the announcements of store openings/closures, which involves an estimation for some retailers. **Aldi** will complete a 300-store expansion by 2022. **Smiggle** will open 200 stores by 2019. **Lidl** will open 50–60 stores by the end of 2017. **Pets at Home** will open five stores in fiscal year 2017 and 10 stores in fiscal year 2018. **M&Co** will open 60–75 stores by 2022. **Primark** is estimated to open nine stores in the UK in 2017 and 11 for the fiscal year ended September 2017. **Greggs** expects to open 140–150 stores by the end of 2017. **Footasylum** plans to open 8–10 new stores a year.

Source: Company reports/FGRT

2016 Major UK Store Openings and Closures

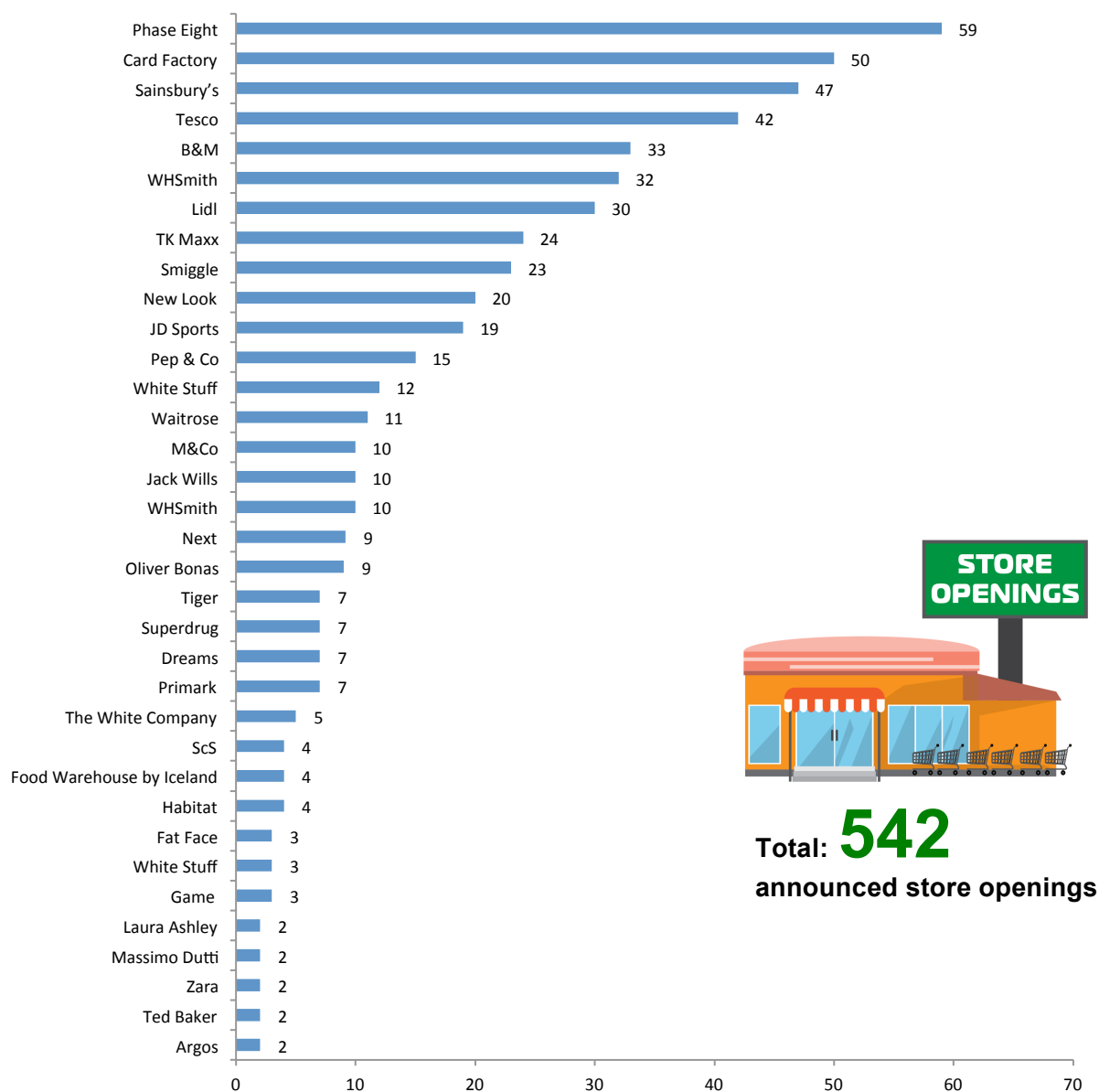
2016 Major UK Store Closures*



* The chart only shows selected retailers.

Source: Company reports/FGRT

2016 Major UK Store Openings*



* The chart only shows selected retailers.

Source: Company reports/FGRT



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