



**Loving the Local:
The role of *retail workers* in our
High Streets and Town Centres**

Dave McCrossen
Deputy General Secretary, Usdaw

Usdaw – the Retail Union

- Usdaw has over 400,000 members.
- Our members work in retail and its allied trades – food manufacturing, distribution and warehousing.
- Over 125 years experience of representing retail workers - we understand the issues the sector is currently facing.
- A thriving retail industry means employment and financial stability for our members.

Retail in Crisis



- Retail was already in crisis before the coronavirus crisis struck.
- 143,000 jobs lost from the retail sector in 2019
- 10,000 jobs lost from the sector in January 2020.

The Impact of Covid-19



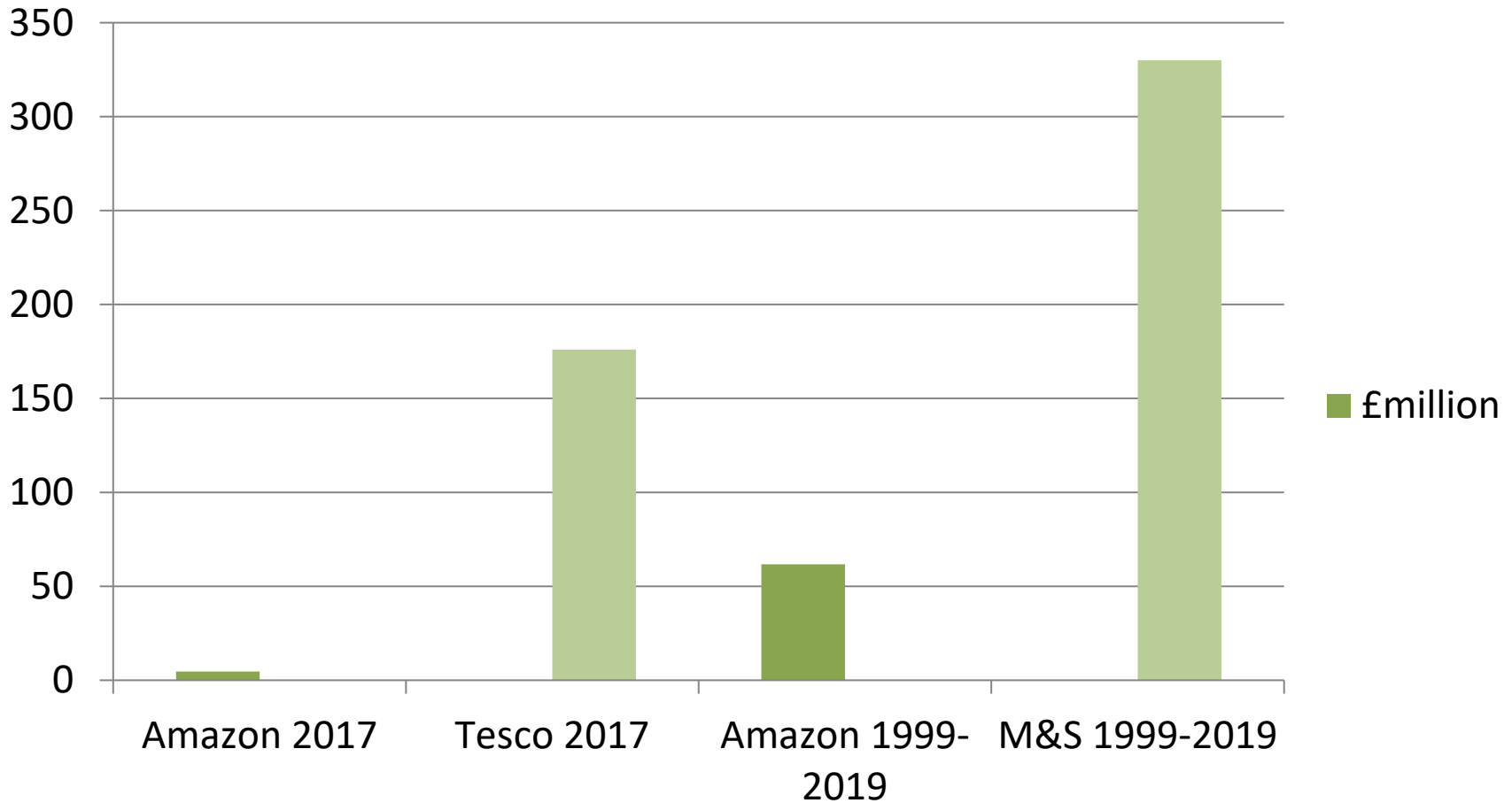
- “Bricks and mortar” non-food retailers down £1.8 billion a week in lost sales.
- 6,000 retail jobs were cut from the UK high street last Wednesday (6 July) alone
- 2,123 stores operated by 38 large- and medium-sized retailers fell into administration in the first six months of this year. They employed 49,200 staff.

Usdaw's Plan for Recovery

Usdaw has identified an number of key priorities that need to be addressed in order to support high street retail to recover:

- Fundamental reform of business rates.
- An immediate and comprehensive review of rental values and lease arrangements.
- Reform of UK tax law to ensure that companies pay their fair share of tax.

Corporation Tax – online vs ‘bricks and mortar’



Usdaw's Plan for Recovery

- Funding for Local Authorities so they can invest in their local economy, transport networks and high streets. We cannot revive our high streets if core services continue to be undermined
- Investment in skills for retail workers.
- A new deal for retail, distribution and home delivery workers based around a real living wage and guaranteed hours.

Sunday Trading

Usdaw members strongly opposed to extending Sunday Trading in retail

- 12,192 survey responses
- 6,236 emails to MPs

The key survey results were:

- 92% oppose large shops opening for more than 6 hours on a Sunday,
- 66% feel under pressure to work on Sundays, and
- 51% want fewer hours on Sunday, with only 3% wanting more.



Future High Streets



- The new offer – retail and leisure blended for future high street success
- Partnerships between business, unions and policy makers

Questions?

Dave McCrossen
Deputy General Secretary,

