#### TRENDS REPORT

# State of Retail Ecommerce

**Quarter Ending March 2024** 



### 1 | Key Takeaways Going into Q2 2024: Increasingly Tough Unit Economics

#### WHAT HAPPENED IN Q1 2024: CONTINUED PROFIT COMPRESSION

Growth in Q1 2024 was driven primarily by an increase in consumer demand, evidenced by a general increase in ordered units of +10.4% and a general decline in ASP of -0.9%.

This increase in prices further drove shrinking gross margins, which fell by an average of -7.4%, likely due to higher COGS and discounts in Q1 2024 vs. Q1 2023.

ROAS fell by \$0.40 YoY, further compressing profitability across the board.

#### WHAT TO DO IN Q2 2024: REDUCE COGS

Unlike 2023, we have now entered a flat-to-declining ASP environment, compounded by likely increasing COGS and falling ROAS.

Similar to our recommendations ending 2023, brands can continue to capitalize on the increase in general consumer demand, by focusing on strategies to continue to reduce COGS and discounts.

Tactics such as altering pack sizes, focusing on ingredient or input innovations to lower costs, changing SKU mix towards more profitable SKUs or bundles are some ways to improve gross margins.

From an ad strategy perspective, shifting ad strategies to optimize for incrementality over raw growth is the only way to offset further pressure on ROAS. The increase in ordered units presents an opportunity for outsized growth for brands that invest optimizing for incrementality.

# 2 | Key Takeaways Going into Q2 2024: Stay in Stock

### WHAT HAPPENED IN Q1 2024: IMPROVEMENT IN INVENTORY

Amazon's main goal in 2023 was to drive Free Cash Flow, and one of the main drivers of this was optimization of inventory across their warehouses. This impact seemingly reversed in Q1, with brands Inventory levels increasing year over year by 10.4% and Revenue Losses due to out of stock falling by 22.5%.

Brands in Beauty, Tools & Home Improvement and Patio, Lawn and Garden increased stock levels but still saw increasing revenue losses due to out of stocks, indicating a mismatch in demand planning and inventory planning throughout the year.

#### WHAT TO DO IN Q2 2024: MONITOR AVAILABILITY & RUN DEMAND TESTS

Leading into the back-half of the year which has a number of tentpole events like Prime Day and Black Friday Cyber Monday, brands should use Q2 to run SKU-level promotion simulations to determine the optimal discount and inventory strategies during Q2.

For brands within the Beauty, Tools & Home Improvement and Patio Lawn & Garden Categories, there is room for improvement in inventory forecasting and maintaining inventory levels on key SKUs which match consumer demand.

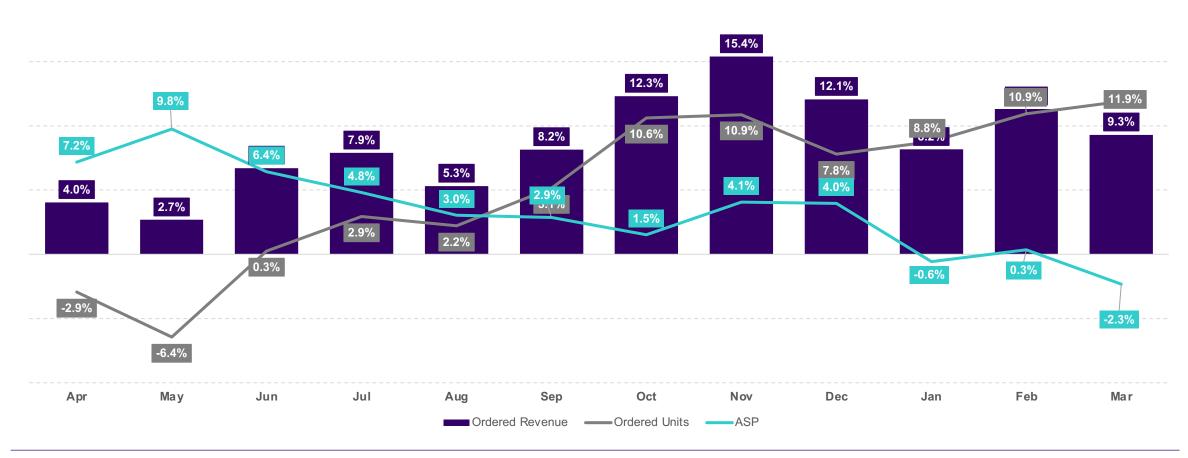
Having a real-time DSA solution which helps you monitor availability at granular level will support forecasting efforts and help these brands in particular to optimize their inventory allocations.

# Total Industry Overview

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap

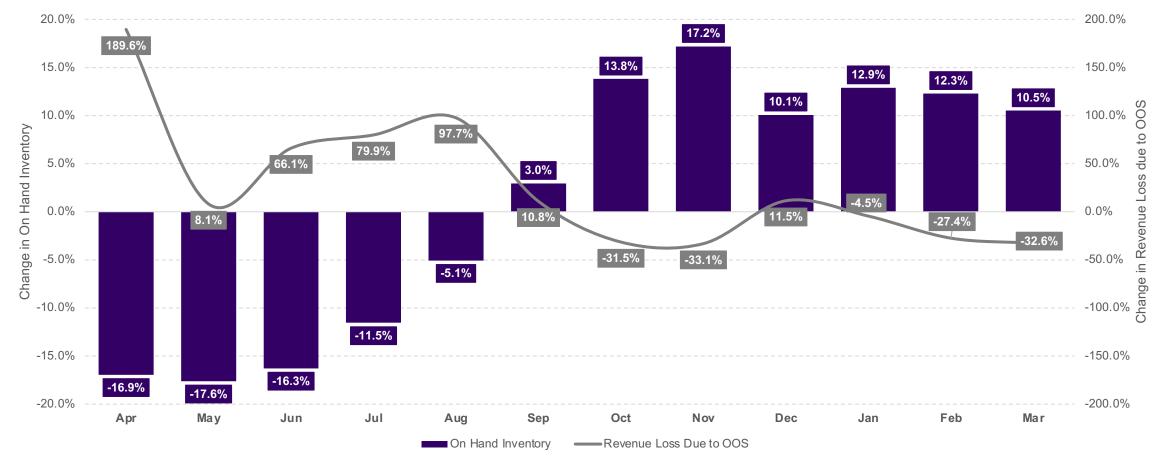
Ordered Revenue has steadily increased by 9.5% in Q1. The core driver has been driven by an increase in Ordered Units as Average Selling Price has fallen over the same time period.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



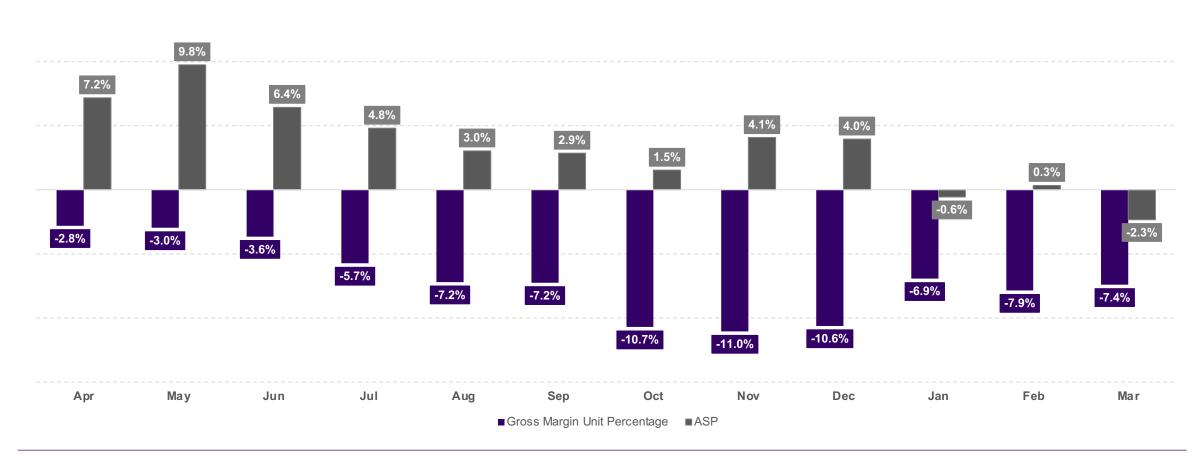
# The build up of stock levels continued into Q1, reducing overall losses due to out of stock.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Brands continued to face a steady degradation of gross margins\*, likely driven by an increase in discount percentages, as ASP levels remained relatively constant.

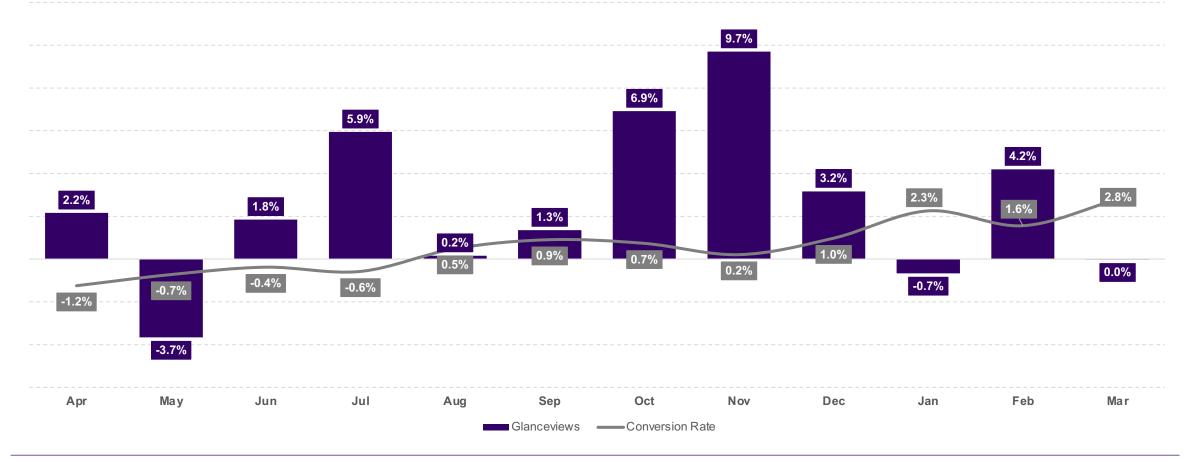
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

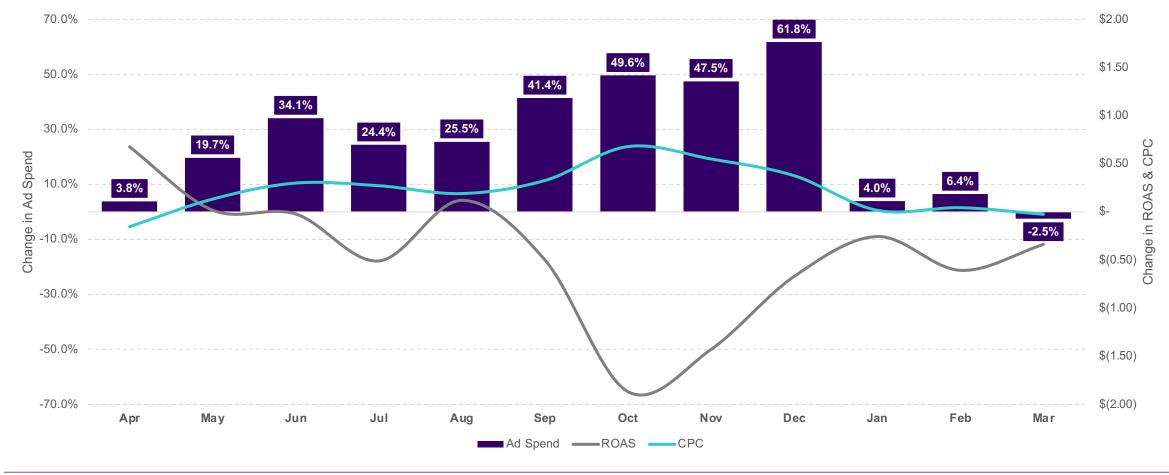
Glance Views were relatively flat YoY, with an increase in unit conversion likely driving the increase in ordered units and overall increase in ordered revenues.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



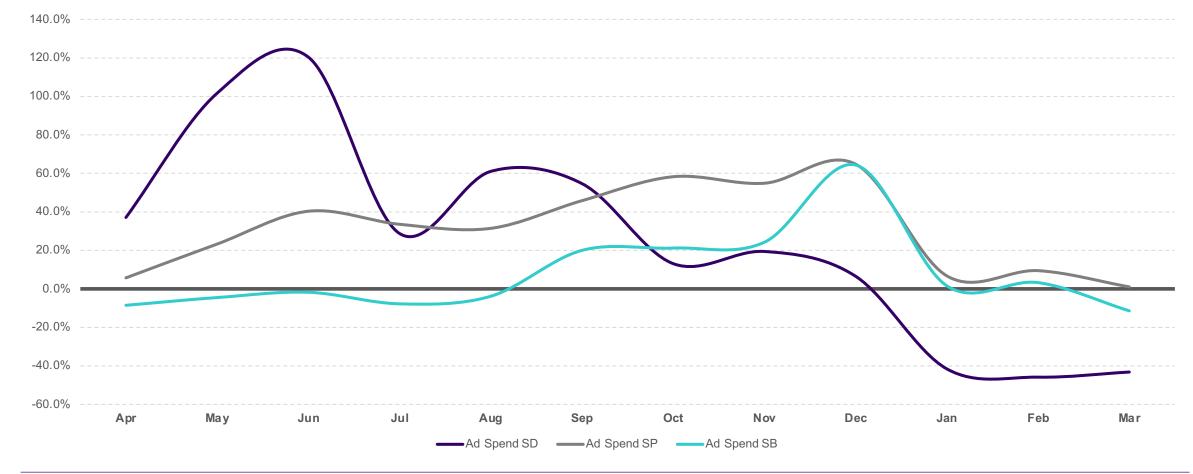
Ad Spend in Q1 dropped substantially as compared to Q4 and remained relatively flat YoY. Amazon's Q1 tentpole sales event appeared to have minimal impact on brands spend levels.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)

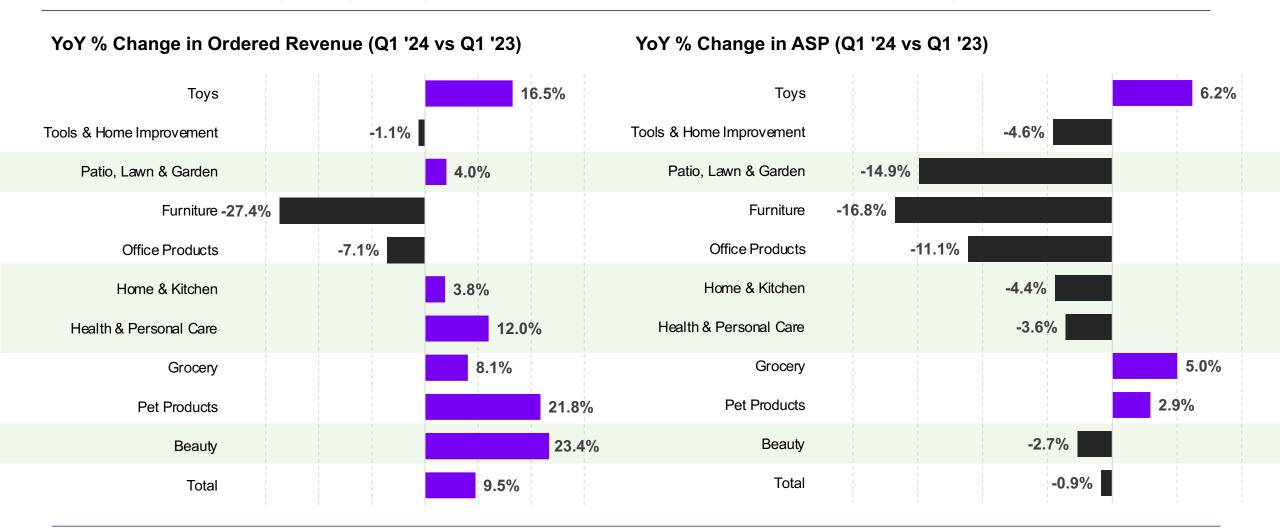


# The reduction in Ad Spend relative to Q4 was observed across all ad types.

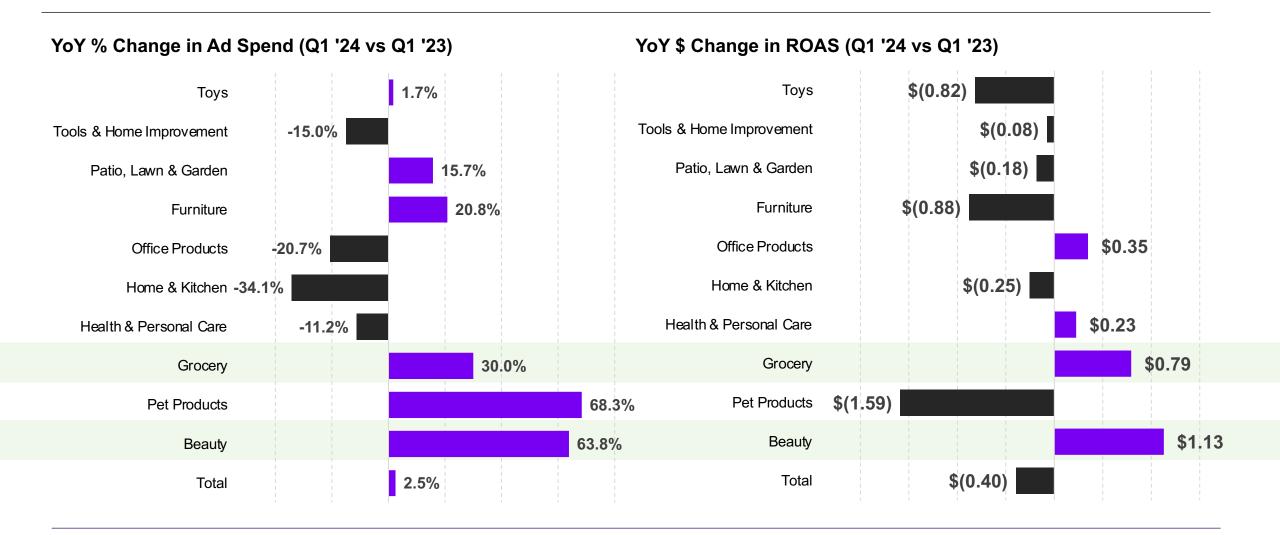
#### YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



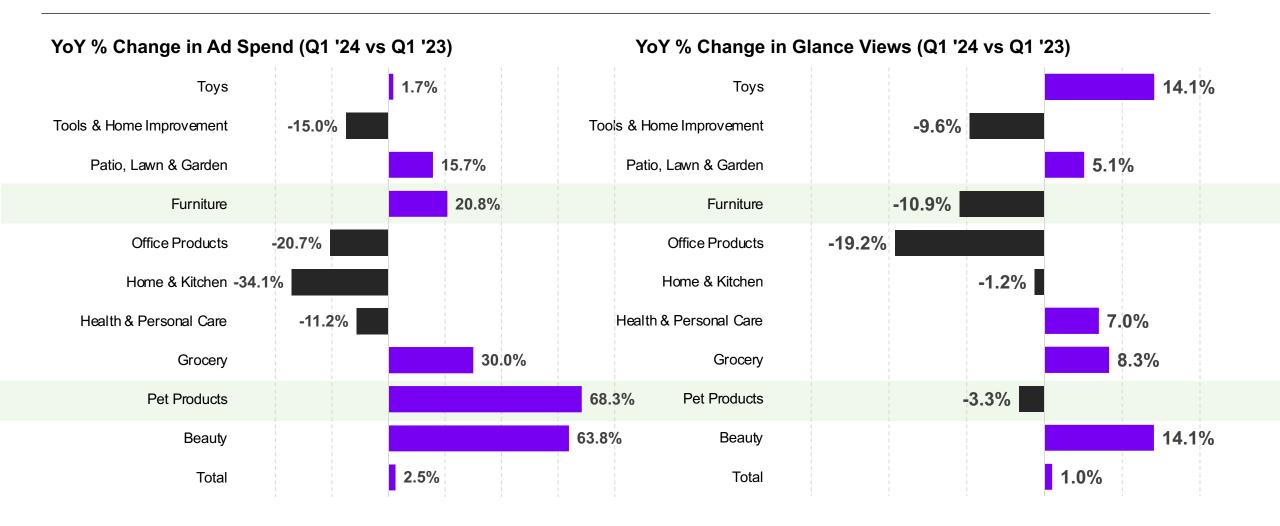
# Patio, Lawn & Garden, Home & Kitchen, Health & Personal Care and Beauty all grew revenue despite reduction in ASP, signaling true growth in consumer demand within these categories.



Grocery and Beauty were able to improve ROAS while increasing Ad Spend, signaling brands within these categories have likely shifted their spend patterns to optimize for "incremental" sales and ad spend.

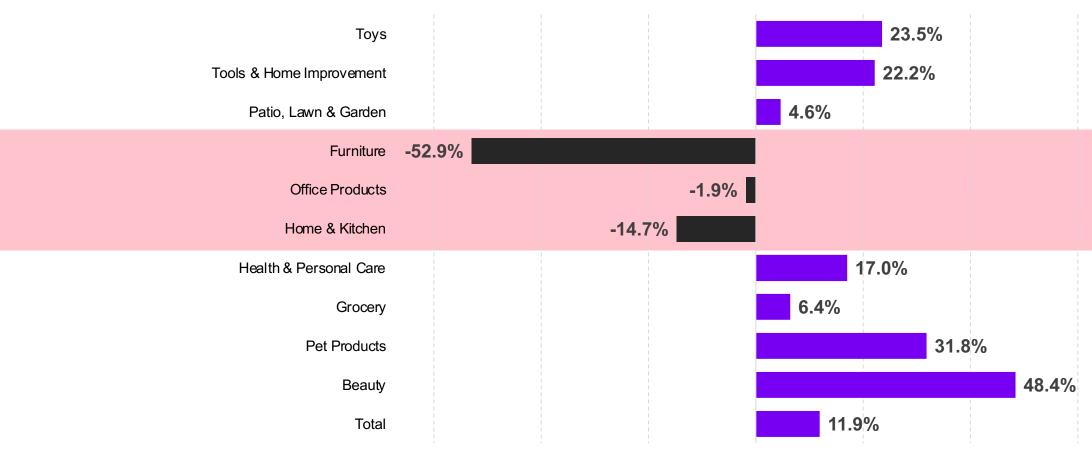


Pet Products & Furniture continue to be the most competitive categories, with increasing ad spend and decreasing glance views.



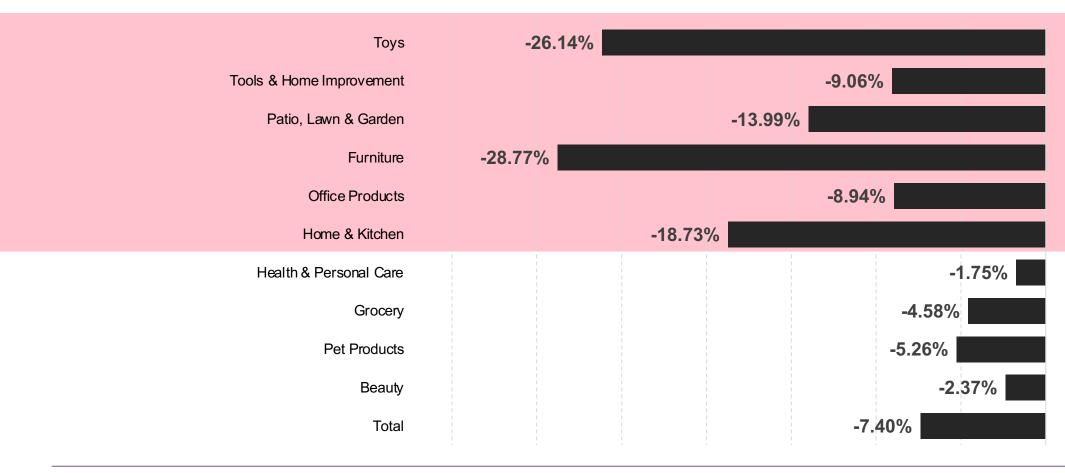
Furniture, Office and Home & Kitchen were the only categories that reduced inventory levels, which will likely correlate with future availability and stock level challenges in 2024.

YoY % Change in Inventory On Hand (Q1 '24 vs Q1 '23)



Six of the Ten Categories tracked saw greater than average decline in Average Gross Margins.

YoY % Change in Average Gross Margin %\* (Q1 '24 vs Q1 '23)



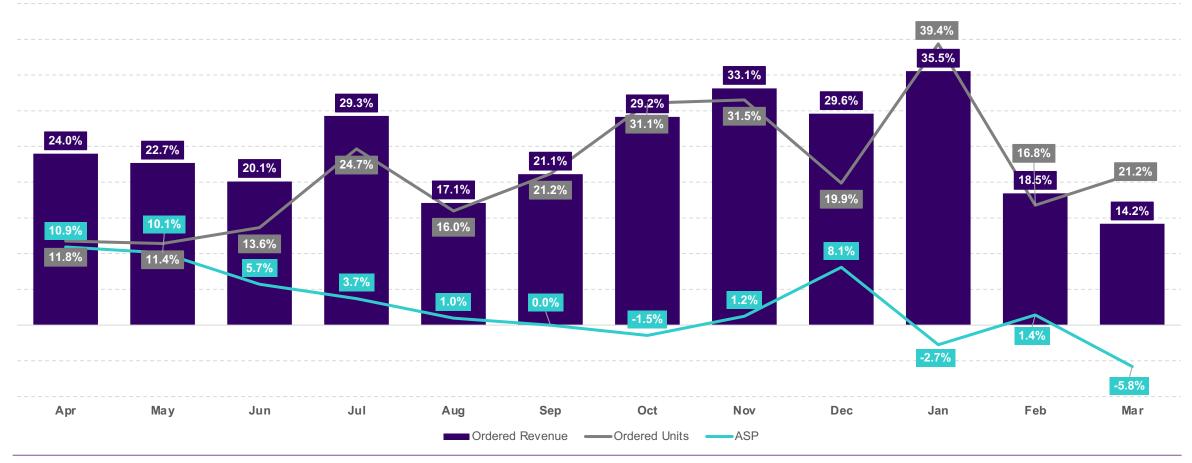
Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margin

# **Beauty Category**

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap

Ordered Revenue was driven purely by an increase in Ordered Units, signaling a genuine increase in consumer demand in Q1.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



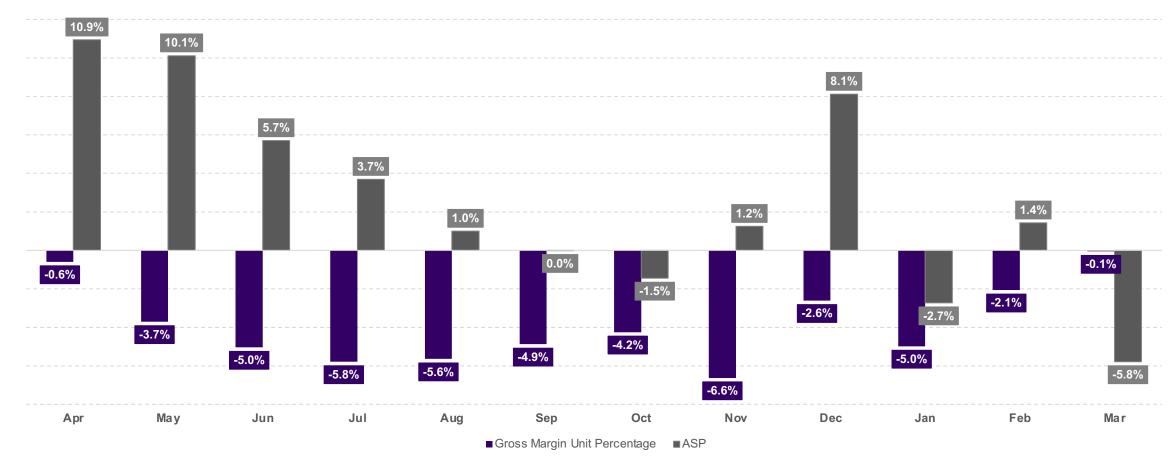
Despite Beauty brands improving stock levels, it has still faced increases in revenue losses due to out of stock, signaling challenges in forecasting appropriate demand for SKUs which are truly in demand by consumers.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



### Brands continued to see a decline in Gross Margins, driven primarily by a reduction in Average Selling Price.

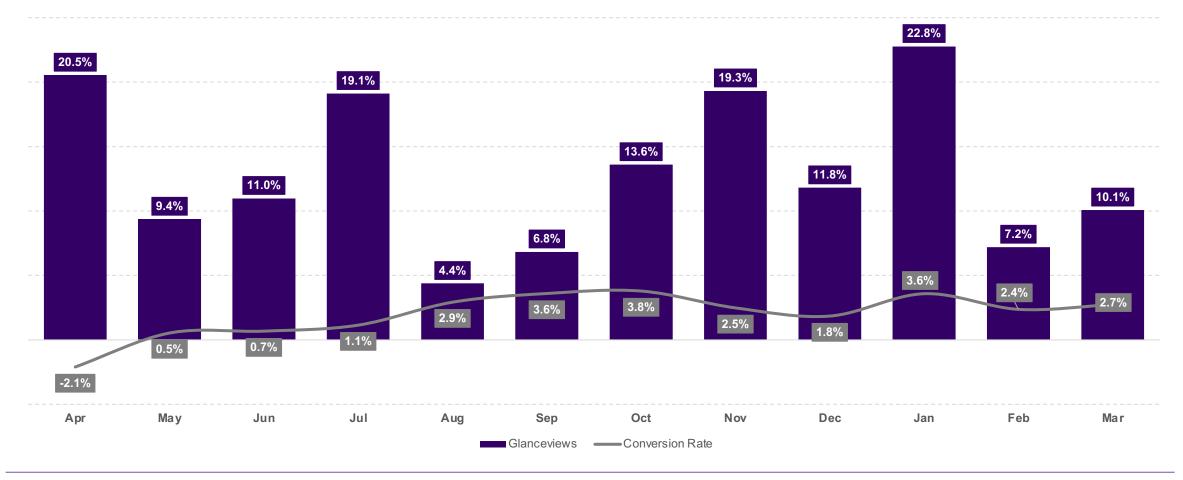
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

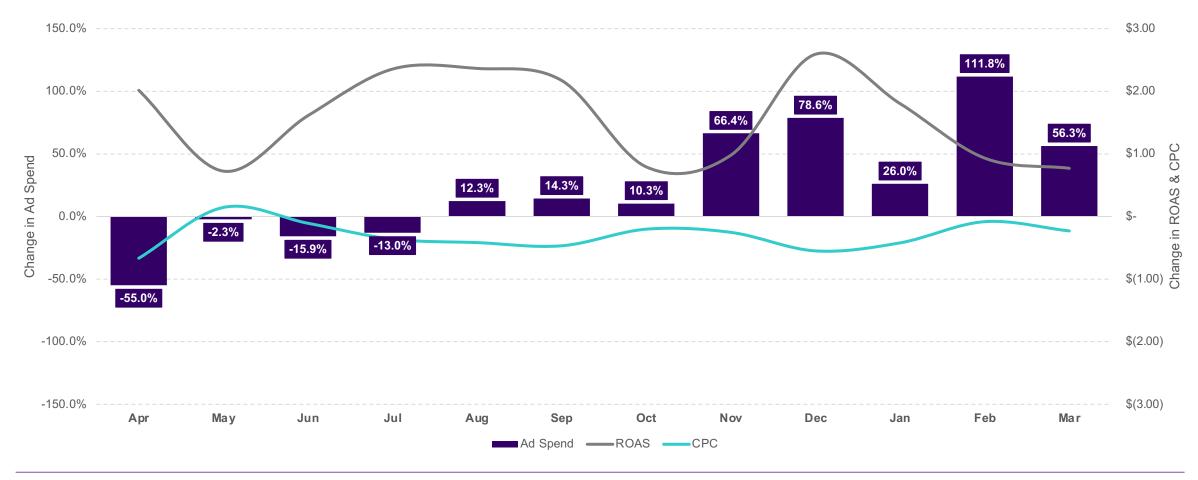
Glance Views and Unit Conversion percentages grew, signaling a true improvement in consumer interest and demand in the beauty category.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



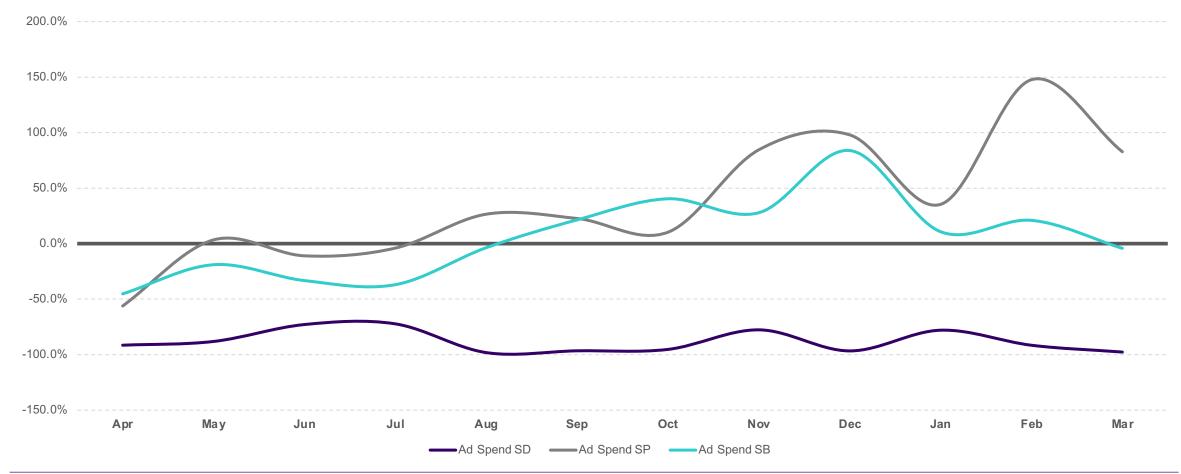
Ad Spend grew alongside an improvement in ROAS, signaling brands in the category have likely begun optimizing spend on an "incremental" basis to gain these efficiencies.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



### The Increase in Ad Spend has been driven primarily by a growth in Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand.

YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)

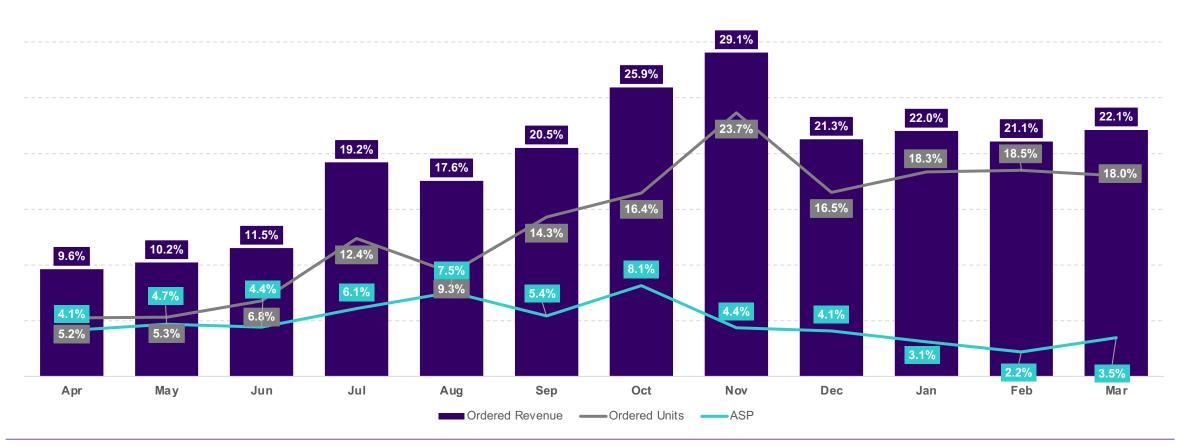


# Pet Products Category

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap

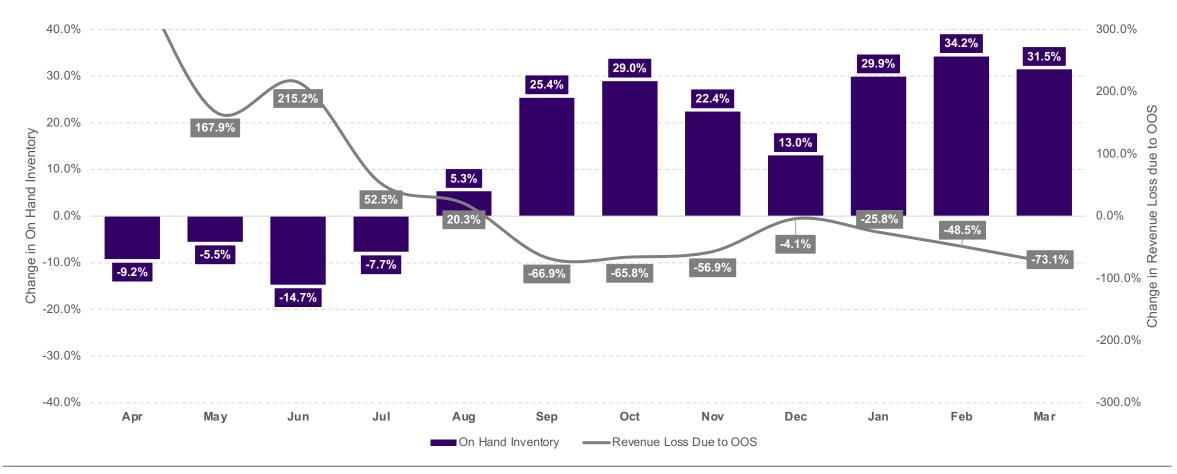
Ordered Revenue continued its increase into Q1, driven by a growth of ordered units, signaling growth in consumer demand.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



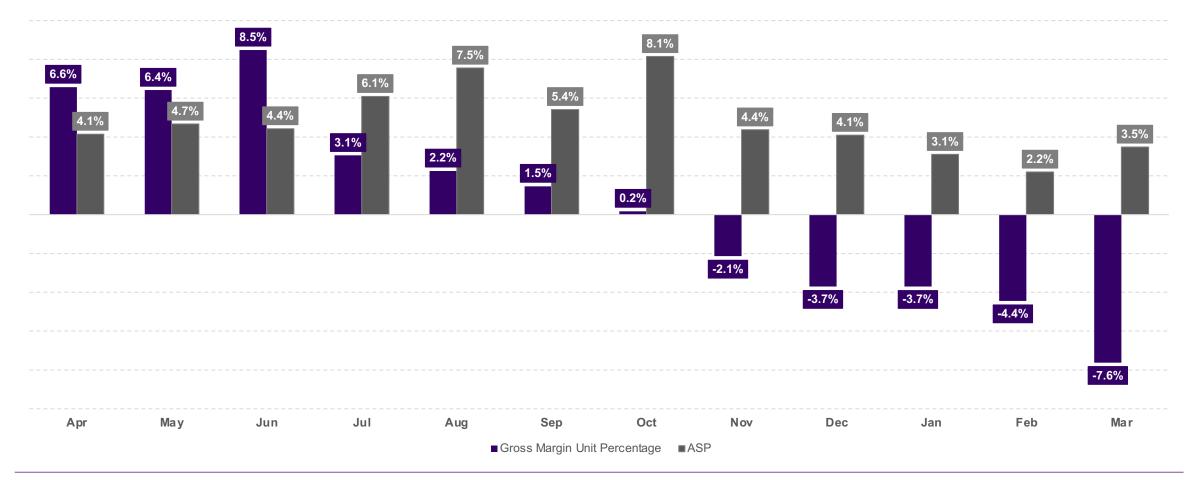
# Pet brands continued to build back stock levels, dramatically reducing losses due to out of stock.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Brands continued to see a degradation in Gross Margins despite an increase in ASP, signaling increasing discounting in Q1.

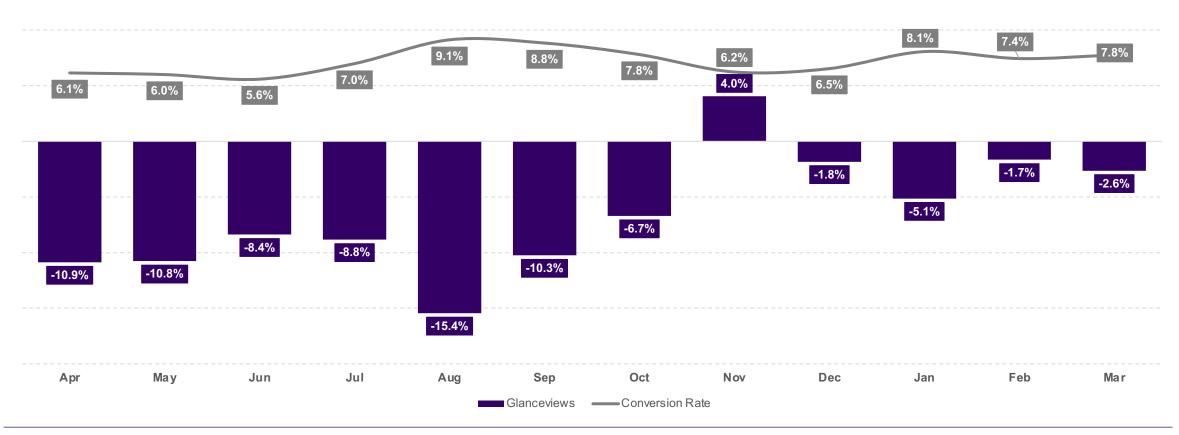
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

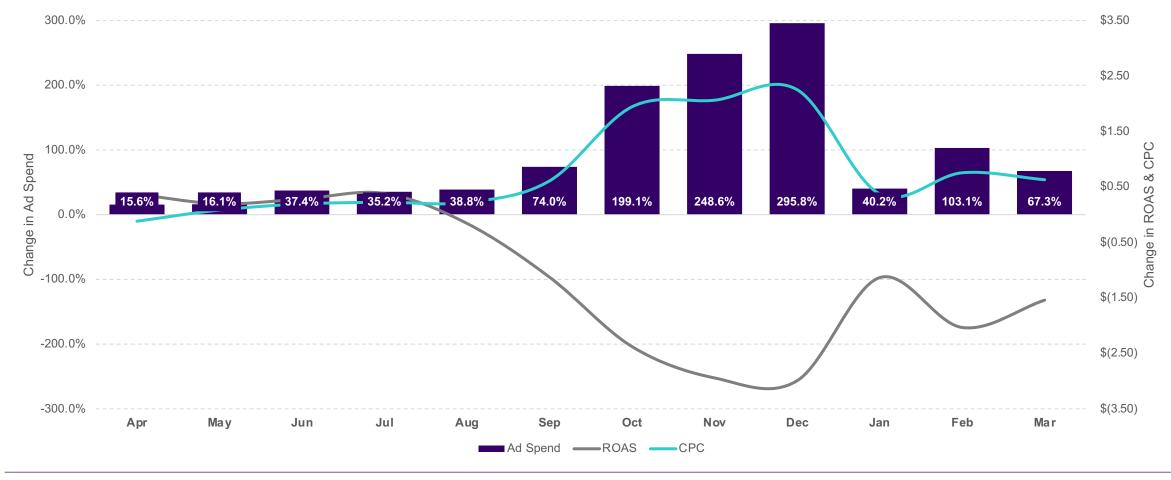
# Pet brands have driven demand amidst declining glance views by improving unit conversion %.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



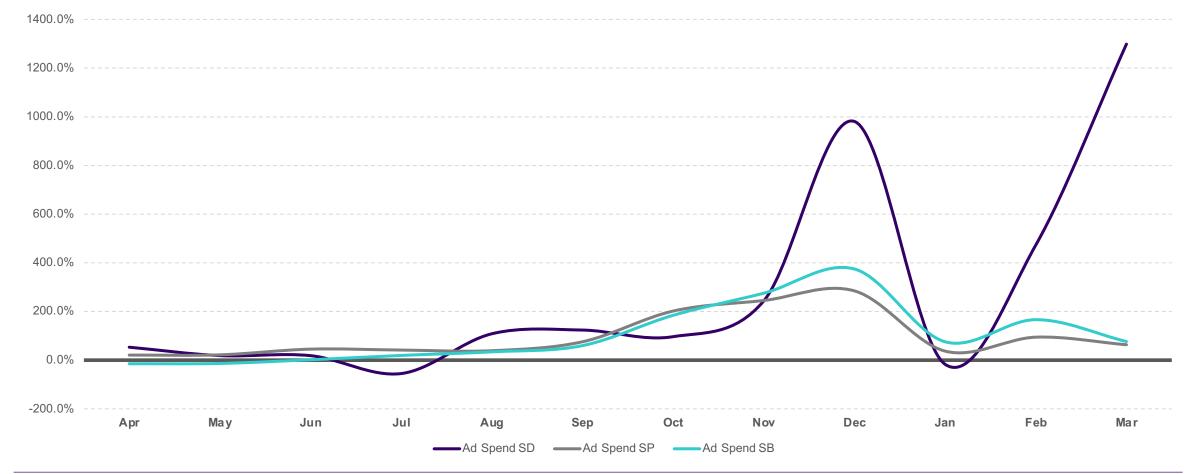
The Pet category remains incredibly competitive, with increased ad spend and declining glance views. This competitiveness correlates with a continued decline in ROAS across the category.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



### Sponsored Display has been the key driver of ad spend growth in Q1.

### YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)

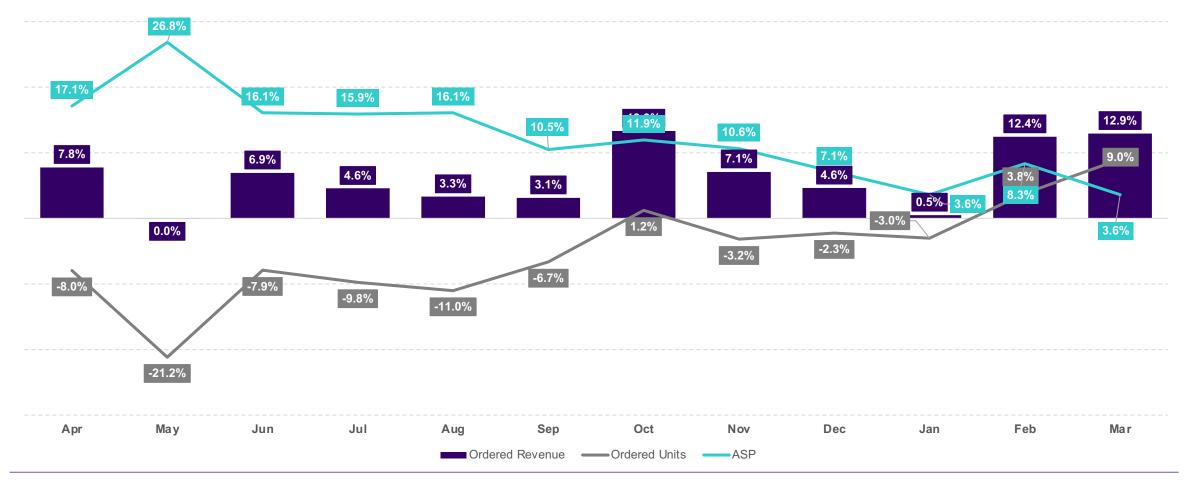


# **Grocery Category**

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap

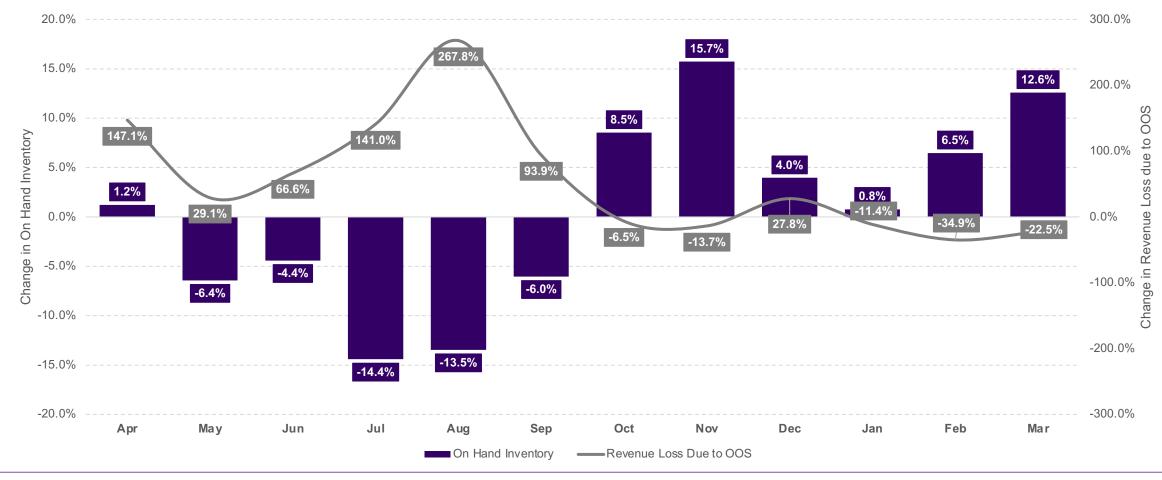
### Ordered Revenue growth has been driven by a combination of ASP growth and Ordered Unit Growth.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



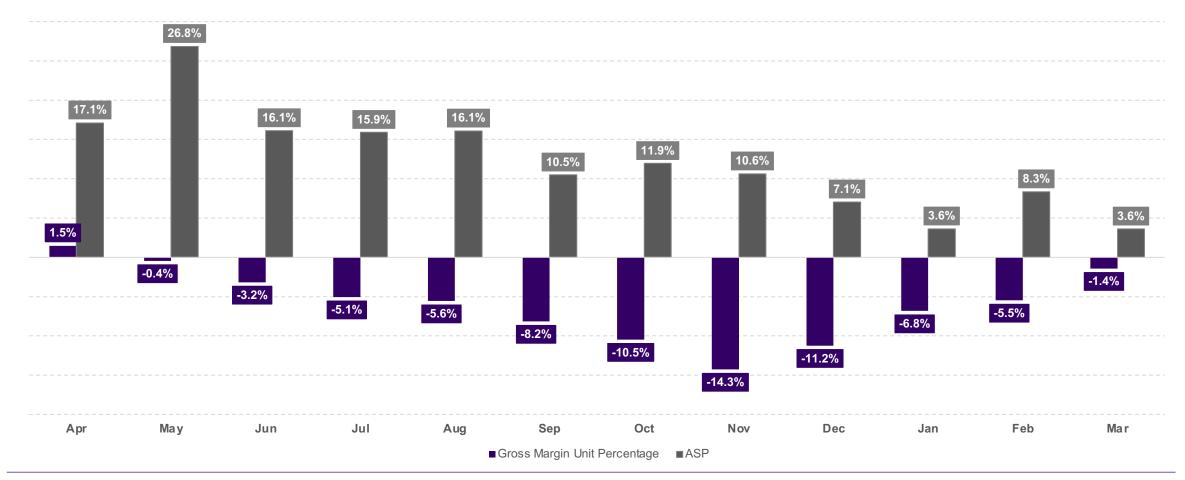
Grocery has continued to build back stock levels, correlating with a continued reduction in revenue losses due to out of stocks.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Brands saw a consistent degradation in Gross Margins despite an increase in ASP, likely driven by an increase in discounts.

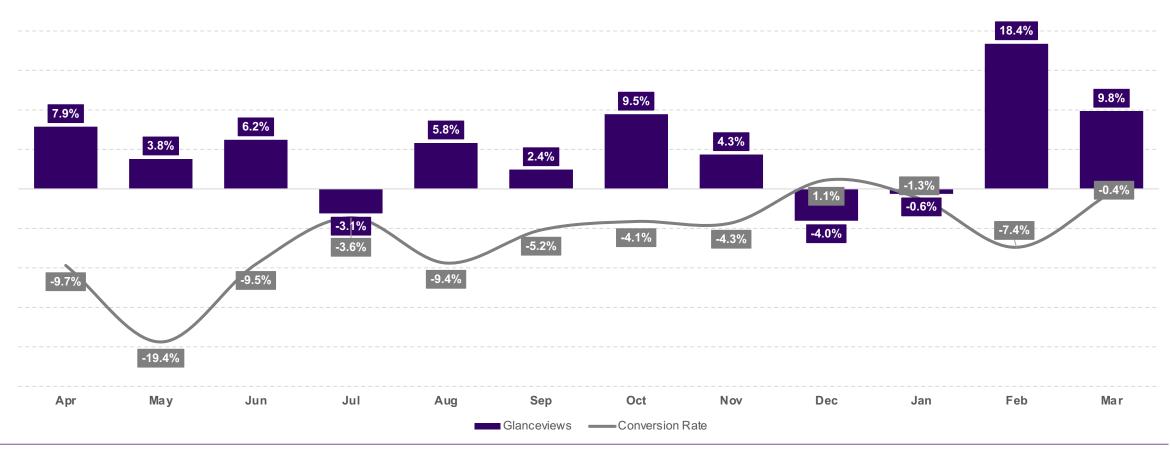
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

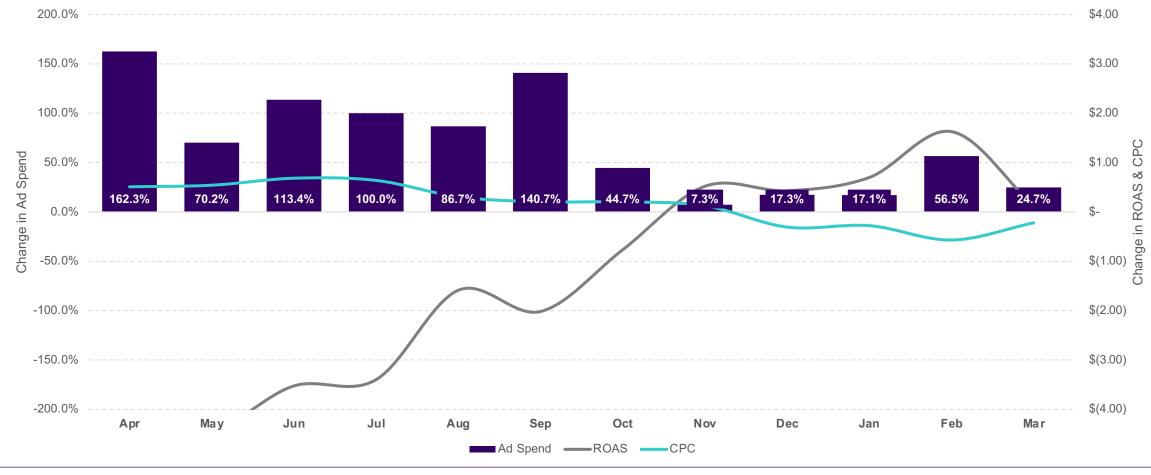
### Conversion rates have continued to fall into Q1, being offset by an increase in glance views.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



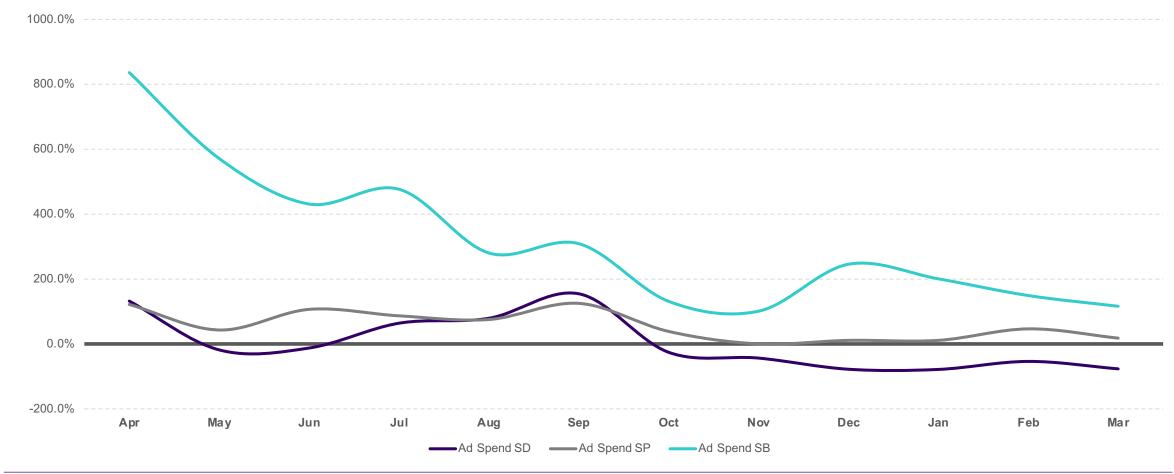
Ad Spend grew alongside an improvement in ROAS, signaling brands in the category have likely begun optimizing spend on an "incremental" basis to gain these efficiencies.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



### Sponsored Brand and Product were the core drivers of the increase in Ad Spend in Q1.

YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



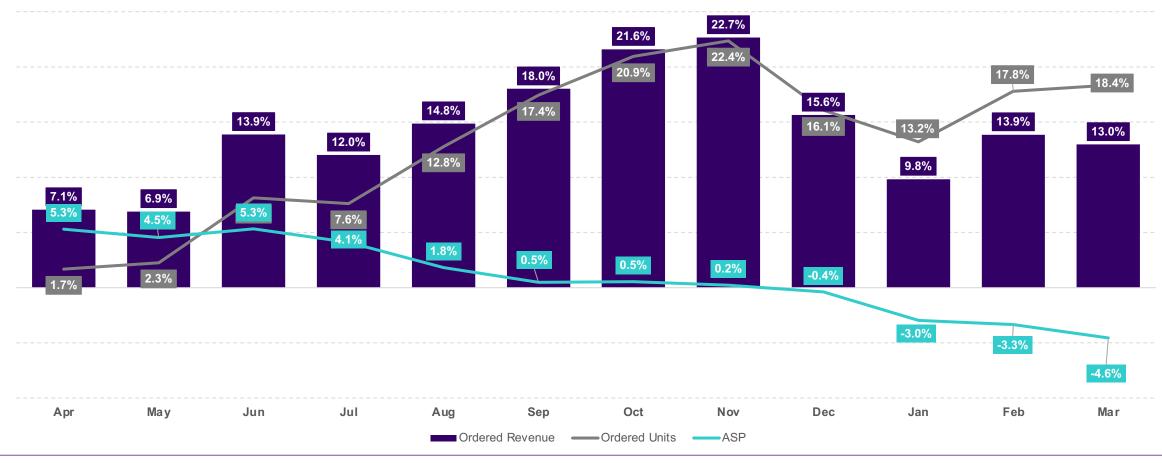
# Health & Personal Care Category

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap



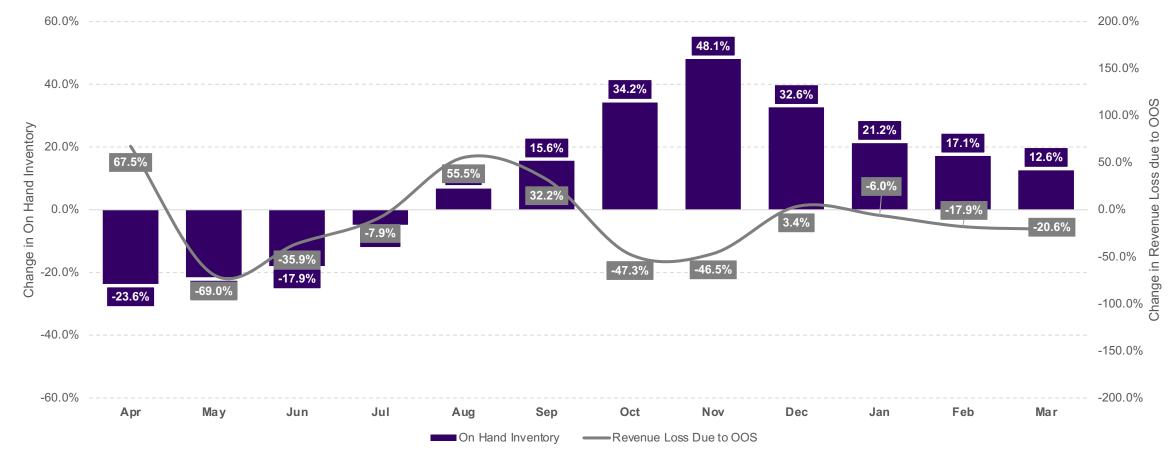
Ordered Revenue increased has been driven by an increase in Ordered Units, with the increase in consumer demand offsetting the decline of ASP in Q1.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



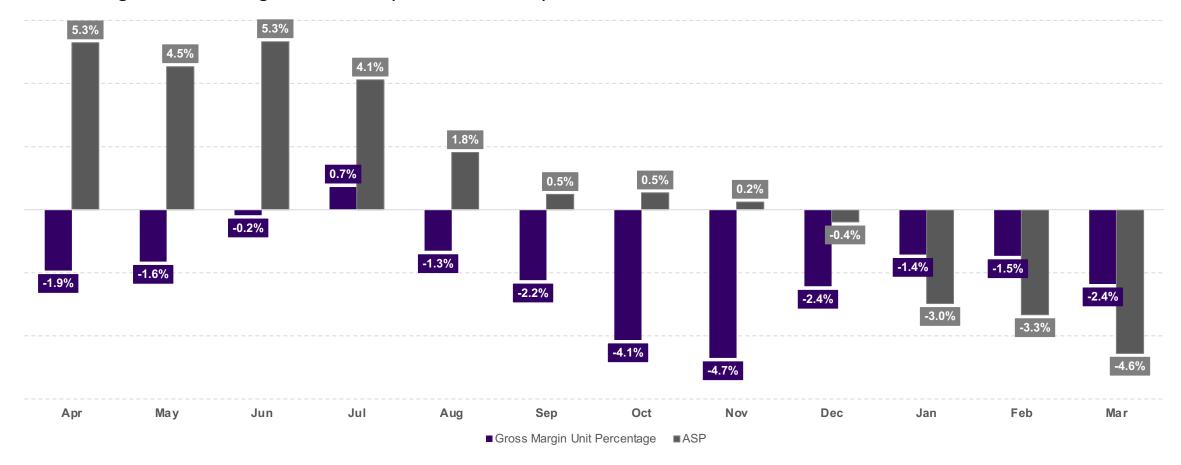
Brands have continued to improve stock levels, correlating with a reduction in revenue losses due to out of stocks.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Brands saw a consistent degradation in Gross Margins, correlating with a reduction in ASP as one of the core drivers of the decline.

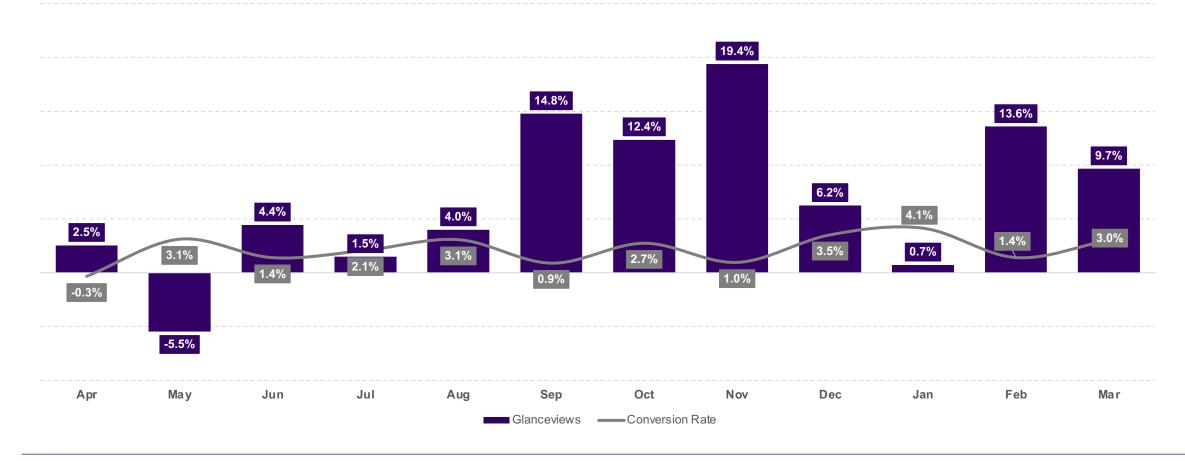
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

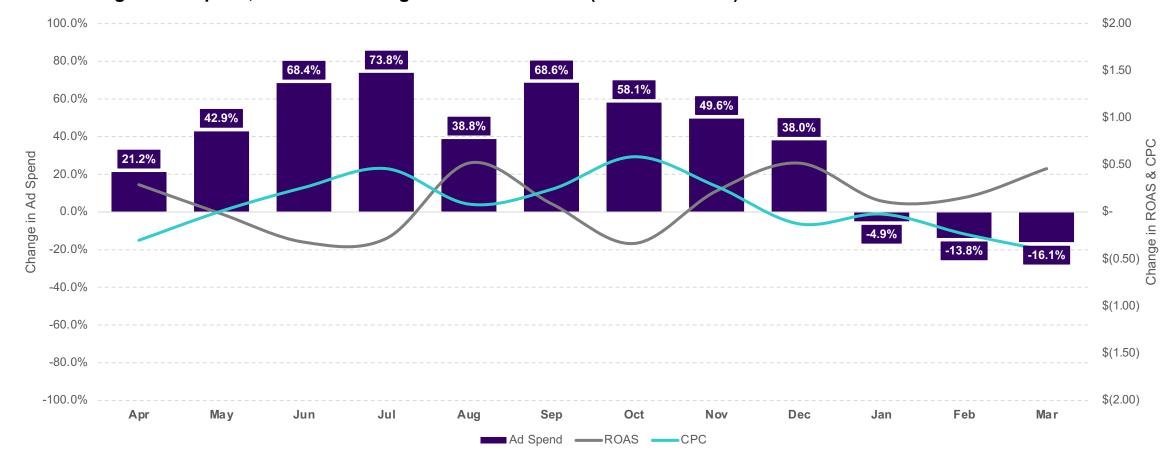
Conversion rates continue to improve, alongside an increase in glance views, jointly driving the increase in revenue.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



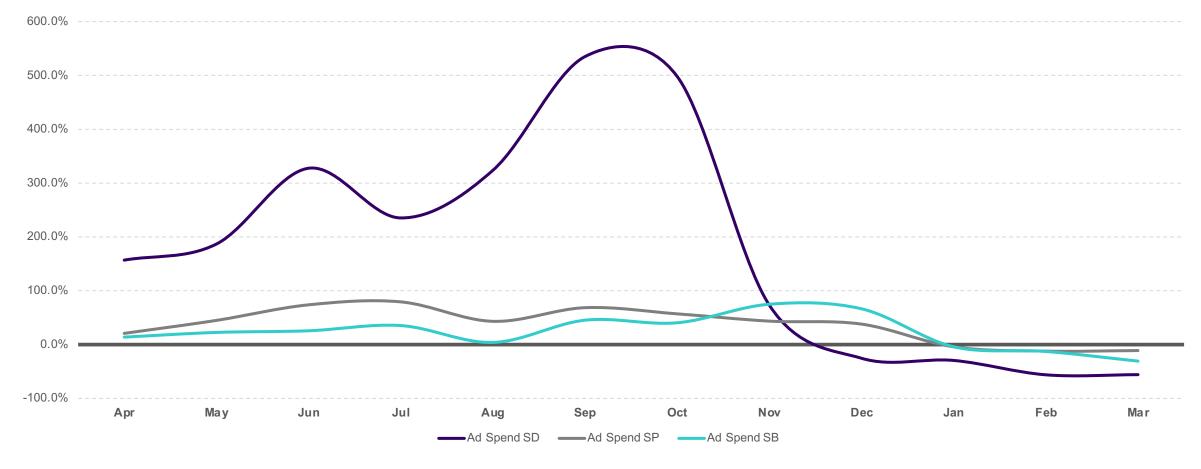
Ad Spend decline has correlated with an improvement in ROAS and glance views, signaling a reduction in competitiveness in the category.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



### Ad Spend declined across all ad format types.

### YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



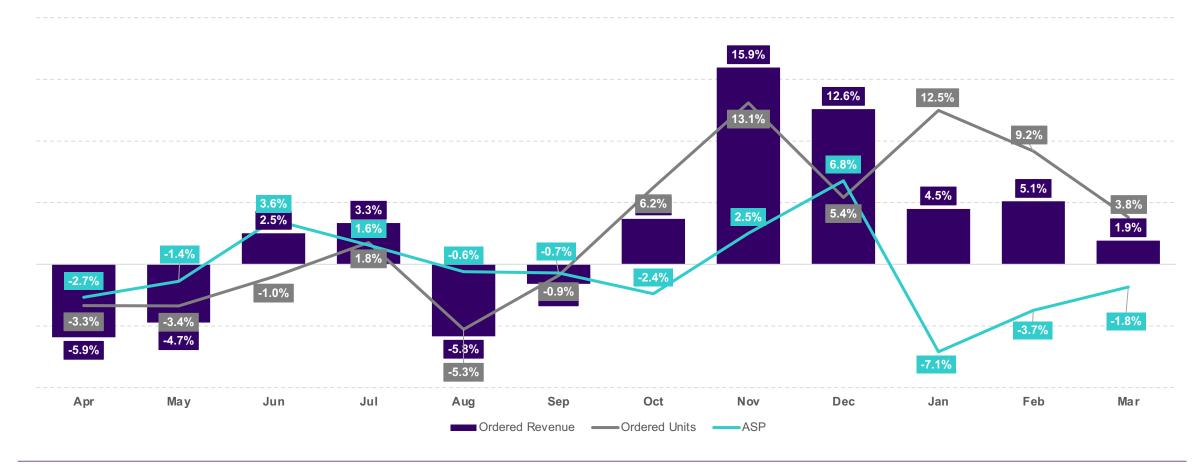
# Home and Kitchen Category

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap



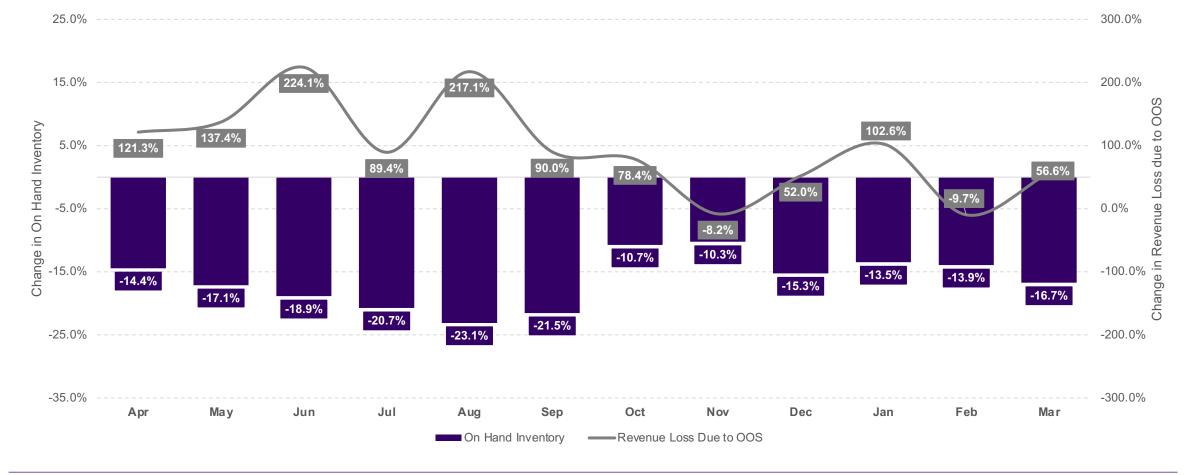
### Ordered Revenue increased despite a reduction in ASP, driven by an increase in ordered units.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



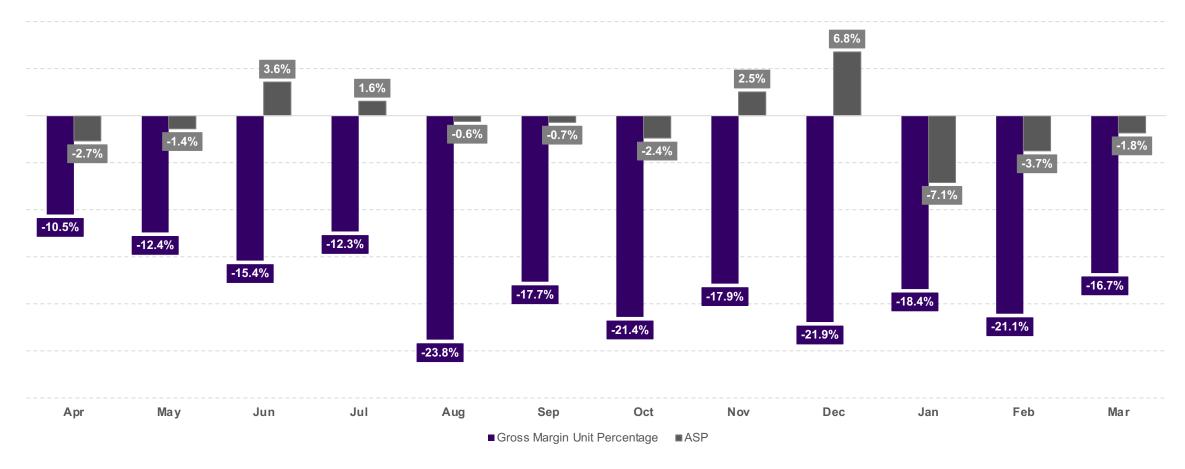
Brands have continued to reduce their levels of on hand inventory, correlating with an increase in revenue losses due to out of stocks.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Brands saw a consistent degradation in Gross Margins, correlating with a decrease in ASP. The decline in gross margins is likely driven by a further increase in discounts and COGs.

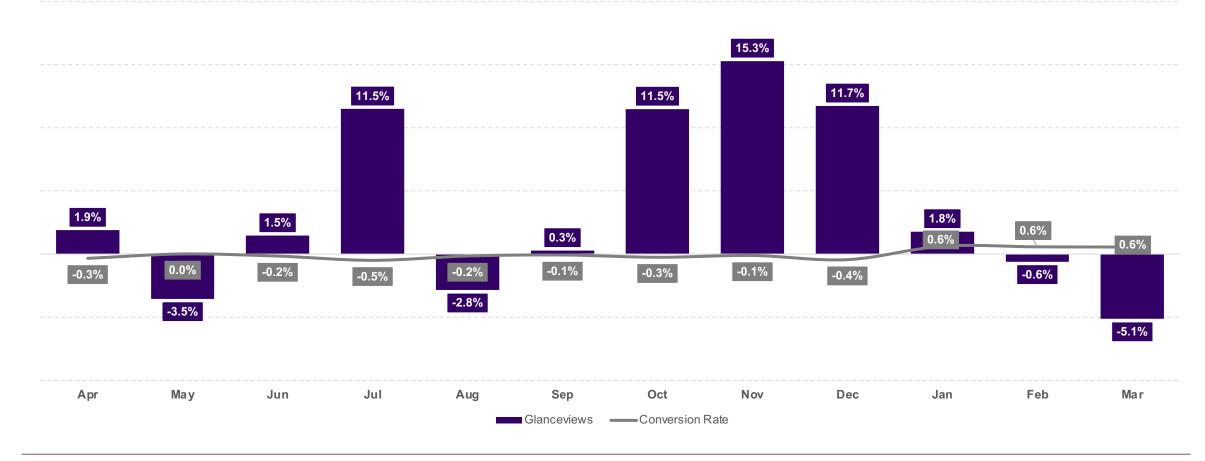
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

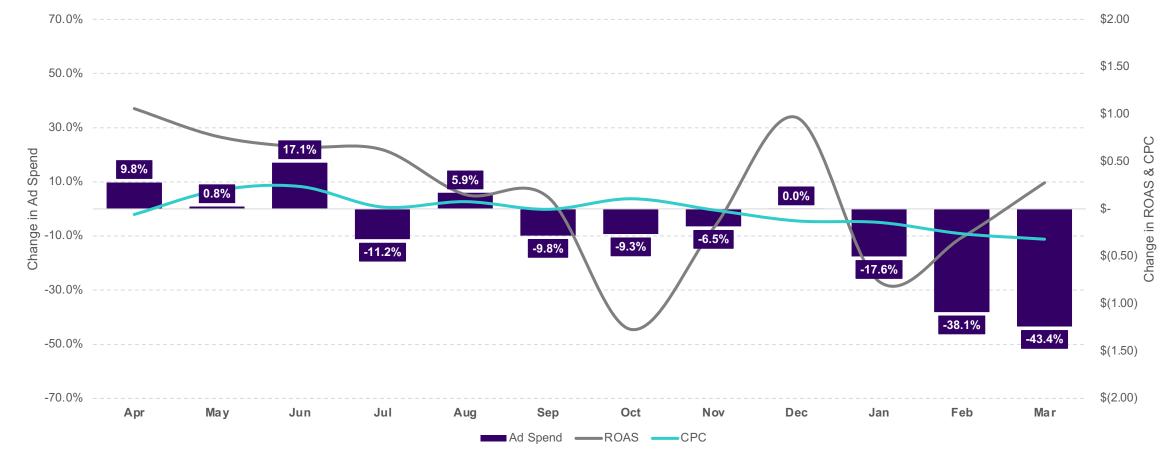
# Conversion rates have remained relatively consistent, with a decline in glance views.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



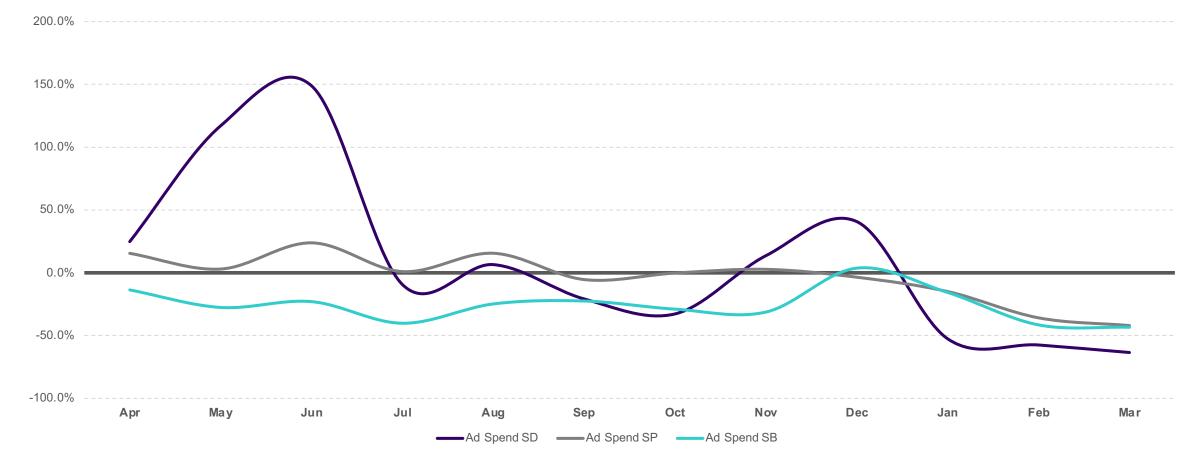
### Ad Spend fell in Q1, correlating with an improvement in ROAS.

#### YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



# Ad Spend declined across all ad format types.

### YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



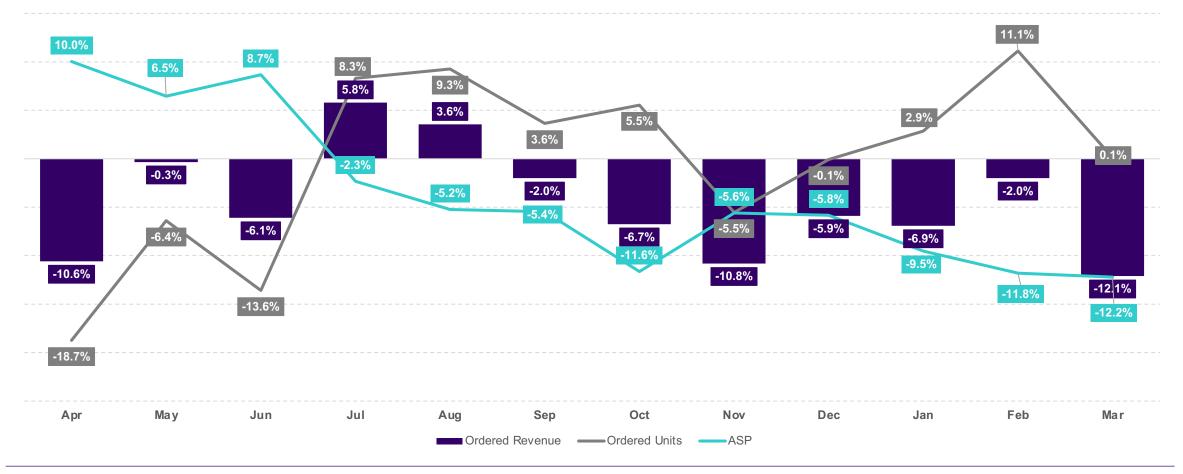
# Office Products Category

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap



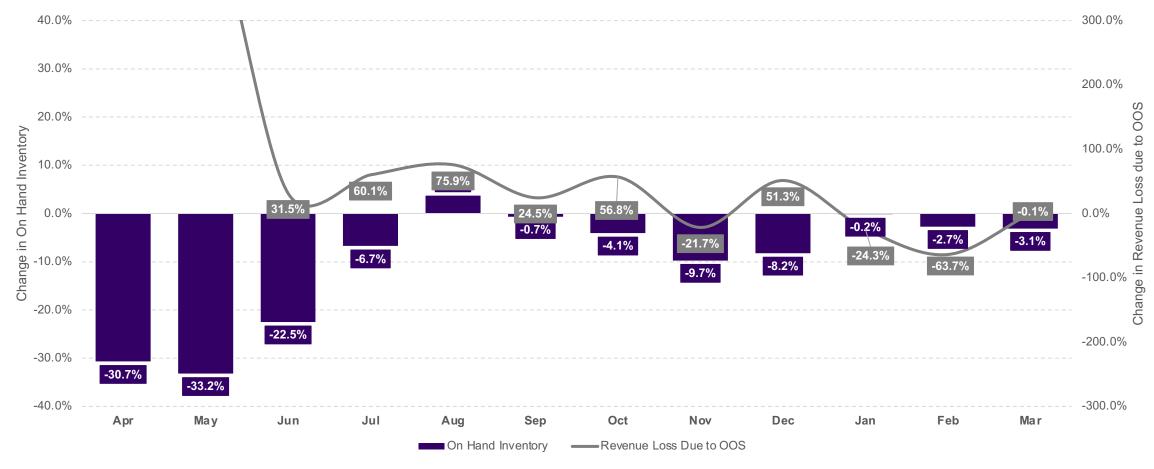
Ordered Revenue decreased, driven primarily by a reduction in ASP.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



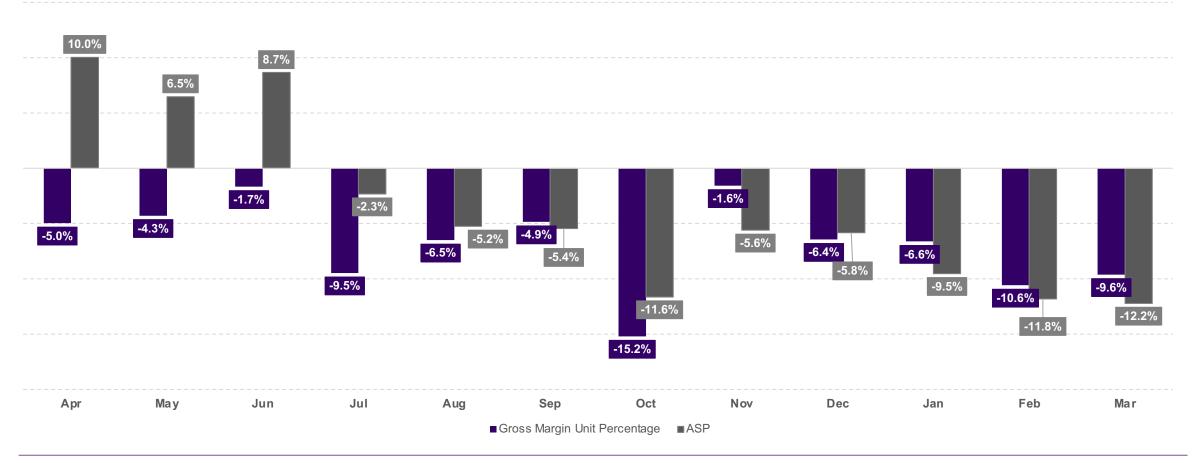
Brands were able to reduce revenue losses due to out of stocks by continuing to maintain inventory levels.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



### Brands saw a consistent degradation in Gross Margins, driven likely by the continued decline in ASP.

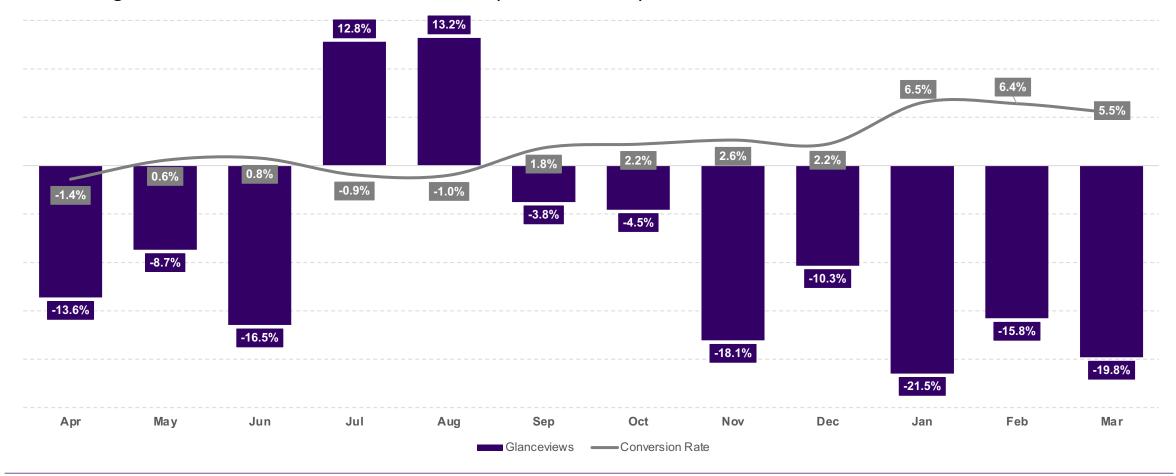
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

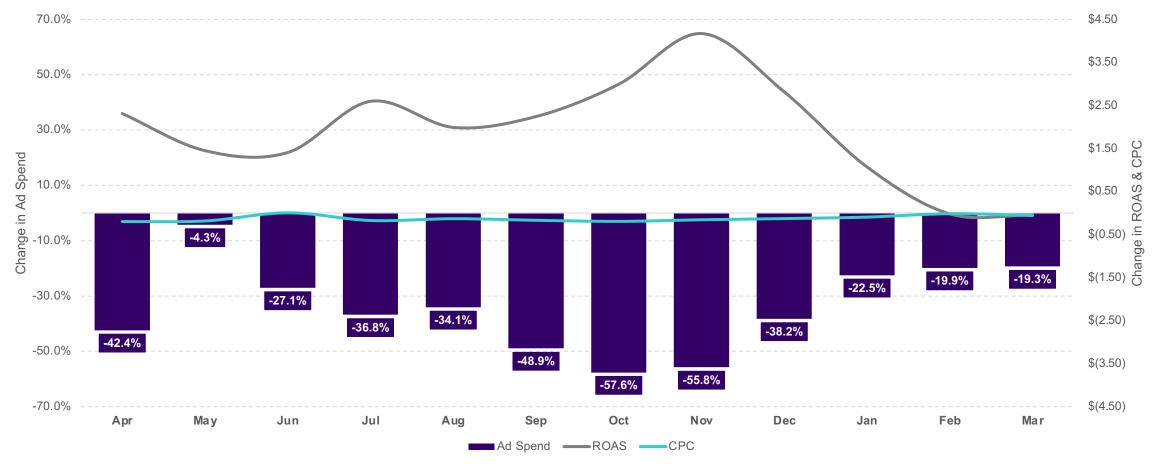
Conversion rates rose in Q1, offsetting the decline in Glance Views but not by a sufficient amount to offset the reduction in ASP and improve revenue levels.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



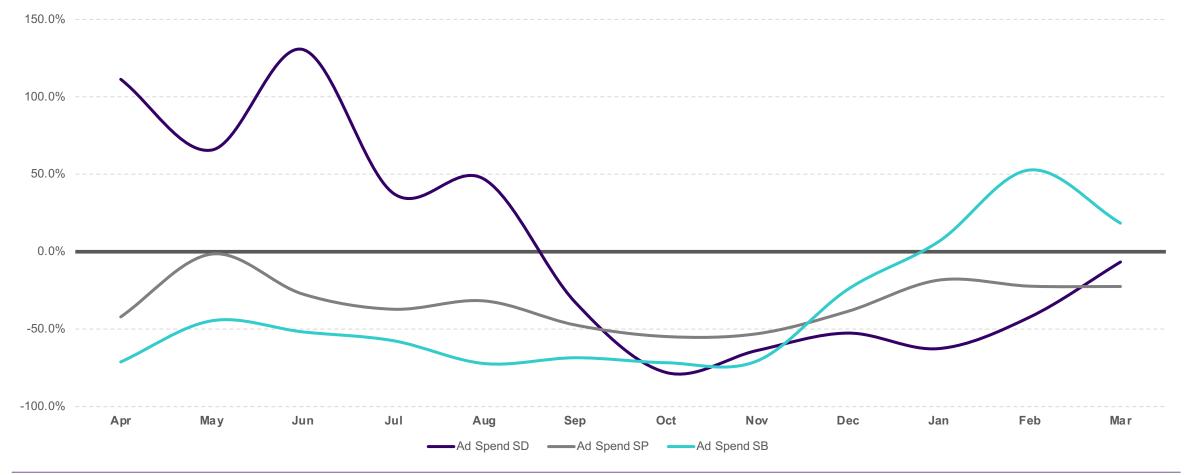
Ad spend continued to fall quarter over quarter, inline with a degradation in ROAS, indicating the reduction in glance views has had an outsized impact on increasing the overall competitiveness of the category.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Sponsored Brand was the predominant ad format that saw the most growth in Q1 amidst a pull back of ad spend within the category.

YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



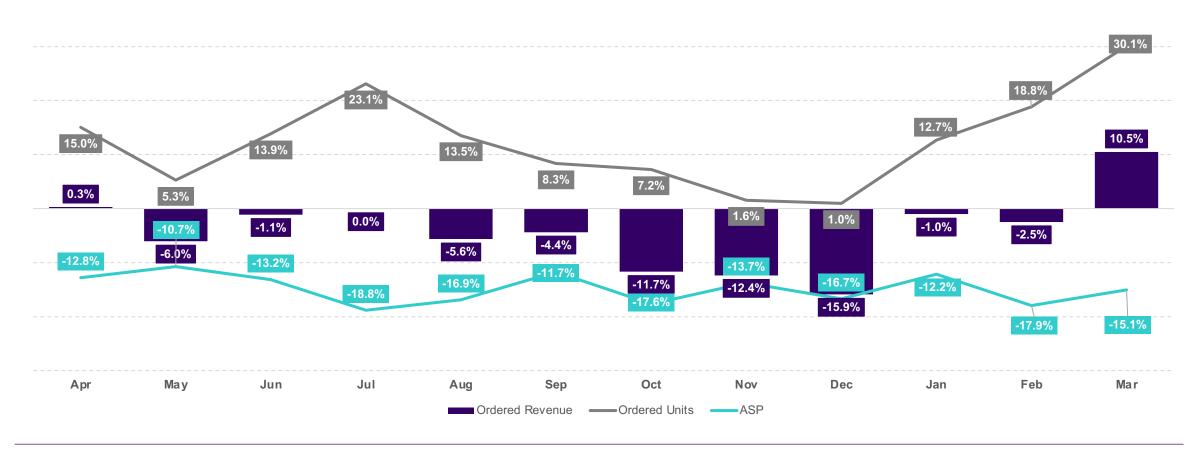
# Patio, Lawn & Garden Category

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap



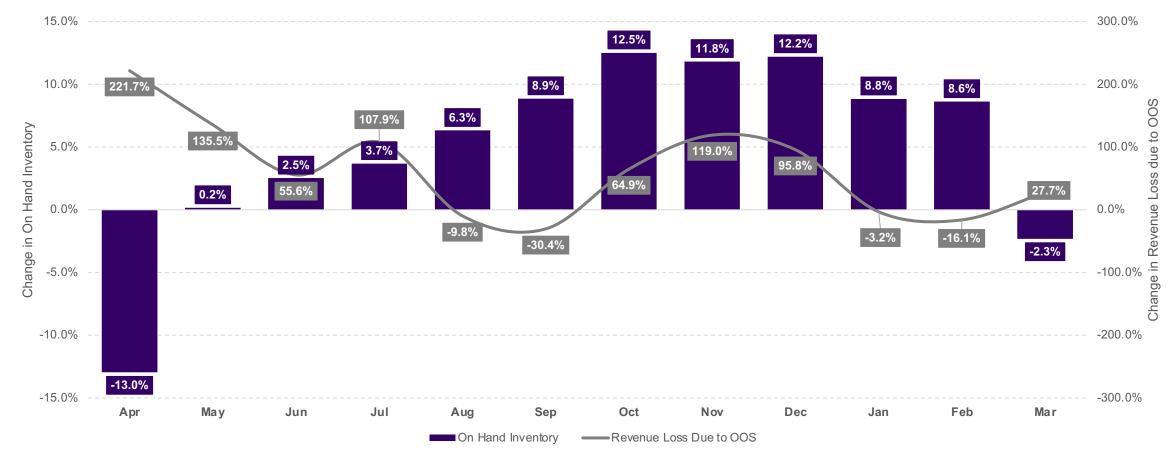
Ordered Revenue grew in Q1, driven by a steady increase in ordered units that offset the reduction in ASP.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



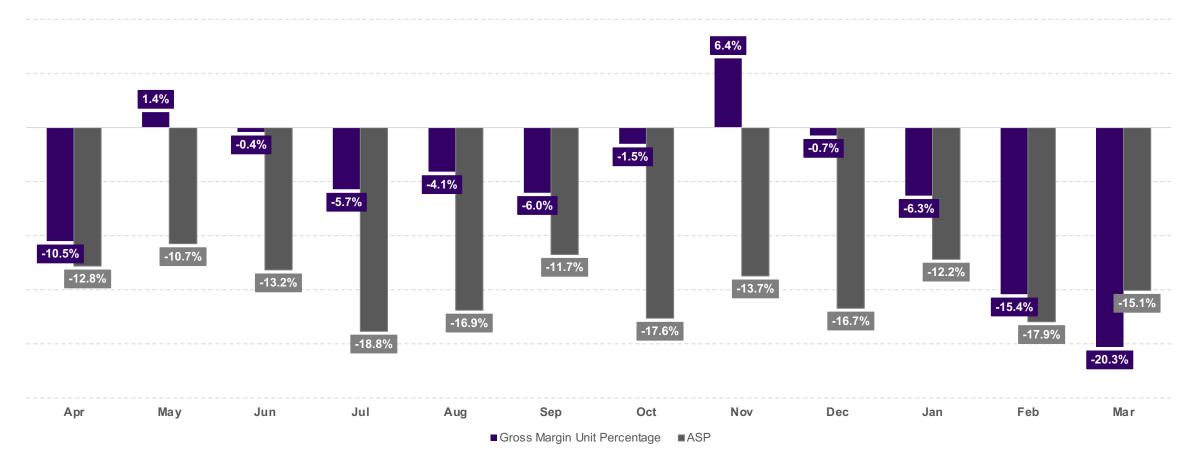
Until March 2024, brands were able to consistently build back stock levels which provided temporary relief for the reduction in revenue losses due to out of stock. There still appear to be challenges on SKU-level forecasting as losses did correlate with an increase in inventory in Q4.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Brands saw a consistent degradation in Gross Margins, correlating directly with a reduction in ASP as the likely core driver.

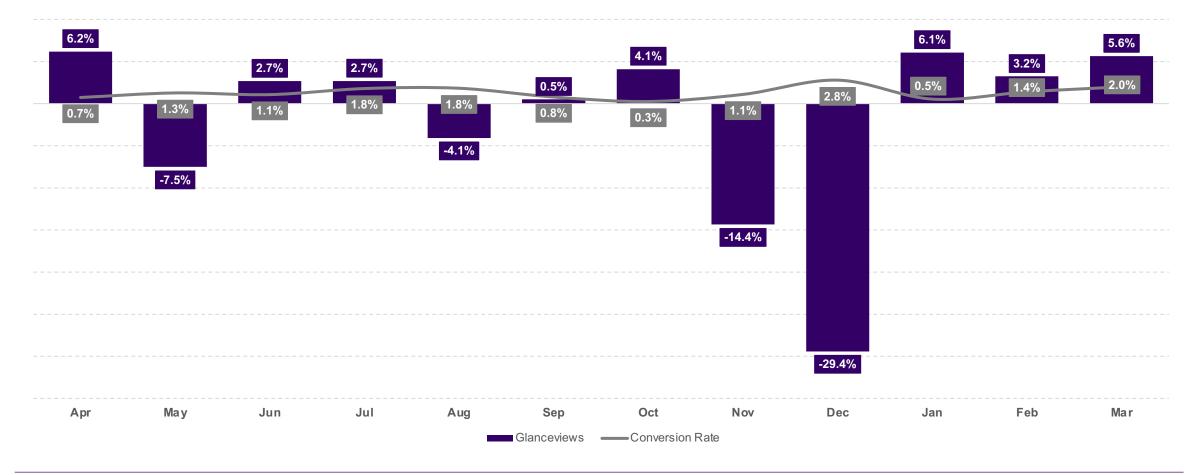
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

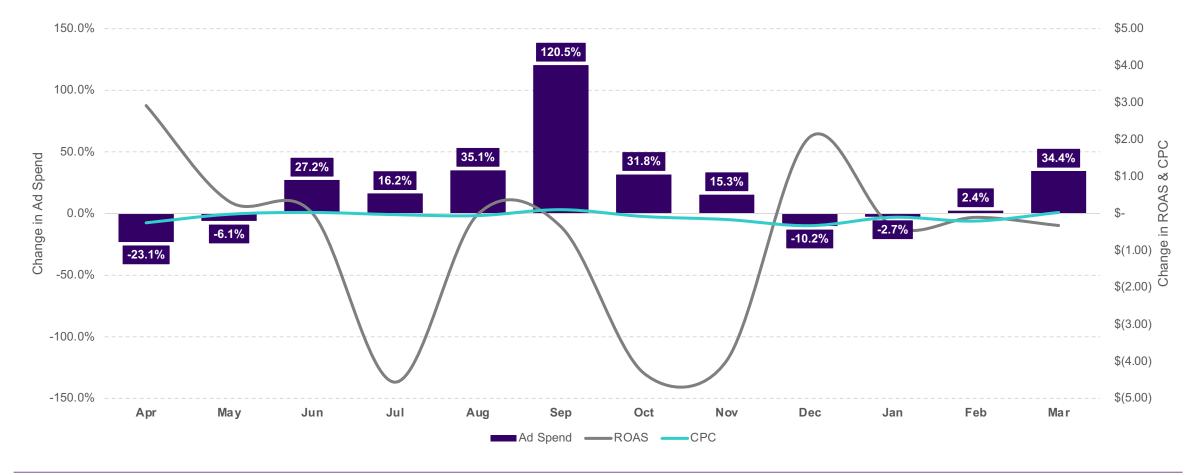
### Conversation rates and glance views improved slightly in Q1 offsetting a massive decline in Dec 2023.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



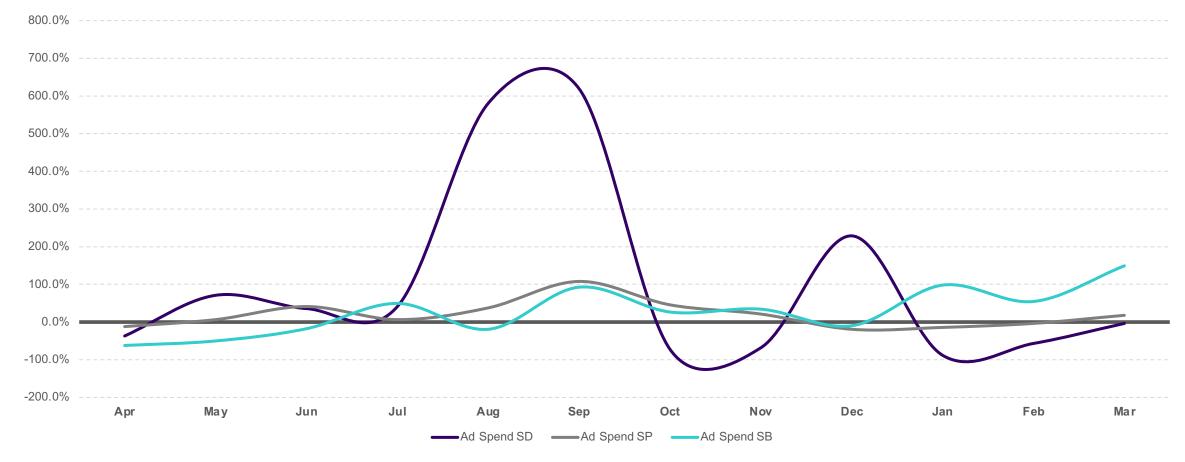
Ad Spend steadily grew towards the end of Q1, correlating with a slight decrease in ROAS and CPCs, presenting an opportunity for further profitable growth through increased advertising investment.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



## Sponsored Brand was the predominant ad formats that saw the most growth in Q1 2024.

#### YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



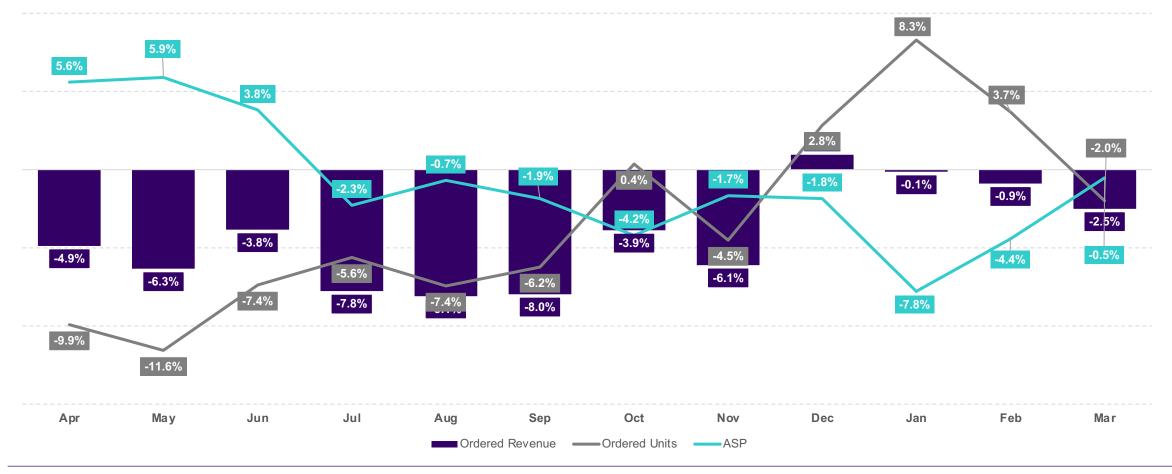
# Tools & Home Improvement Category

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap



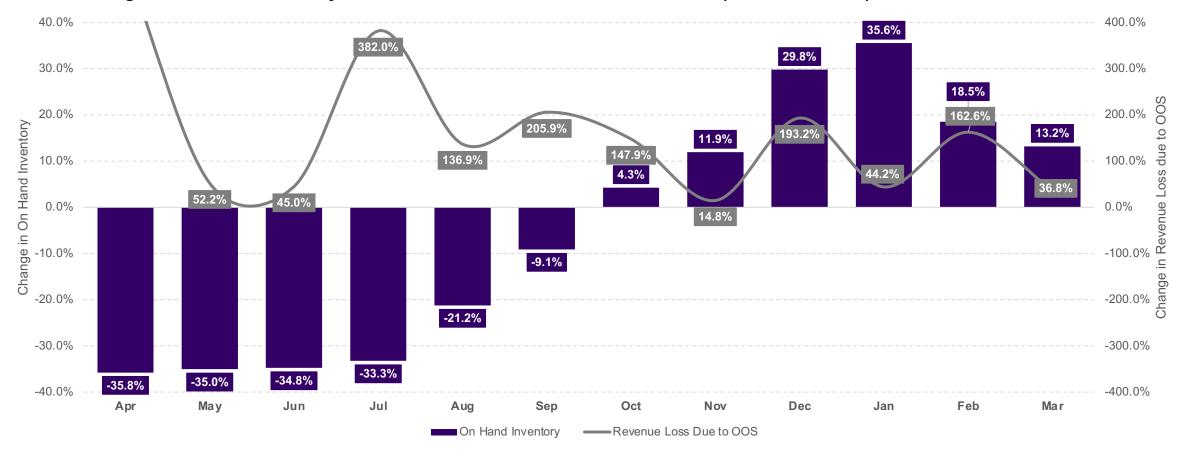
# Ordered Revenue declined in Q1, driven primarily by a decline in ASP that offset Unit growth.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



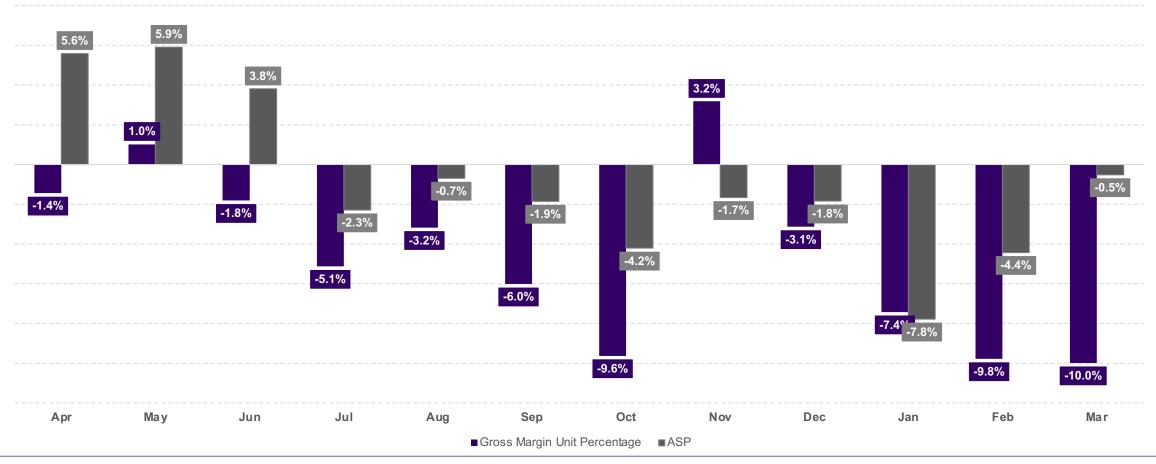
Brands were able to build back stock levels in Q1, but not by a sufficient amount to reduce losses due to out of stocks which continue to have a substantial impact on the overall categories' performance.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory and Revenue Losses due to Out of Stocks (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



### Brands saw a consistent degradation in Gross Margins, correlating directly with a reduction in ASP.

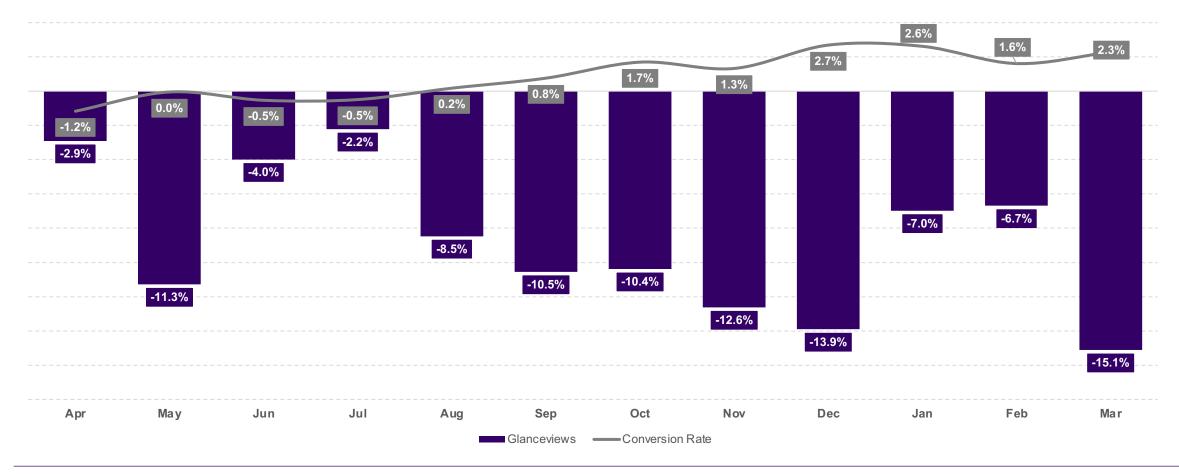
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

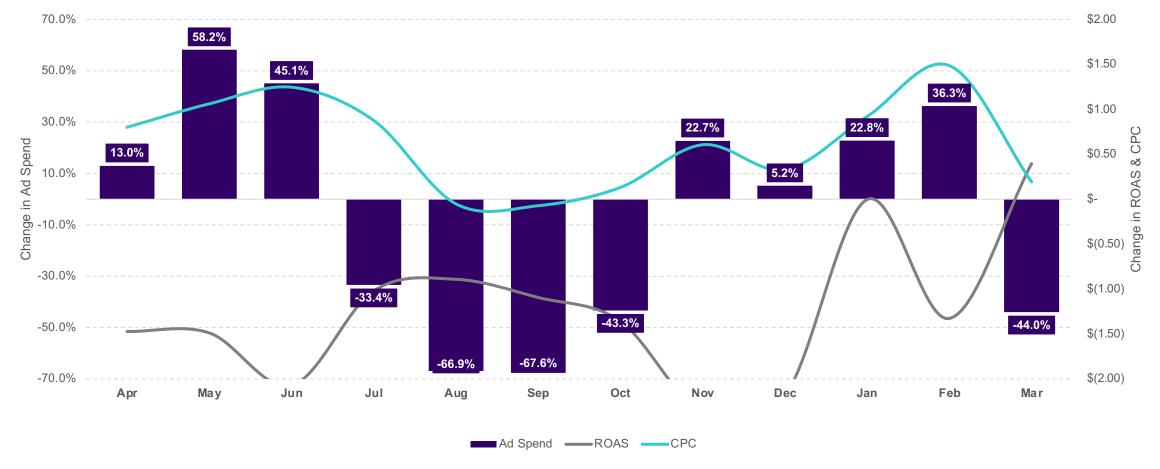
### Conversion rates continued to improve steadily, helping offset the continued decline in glance views.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



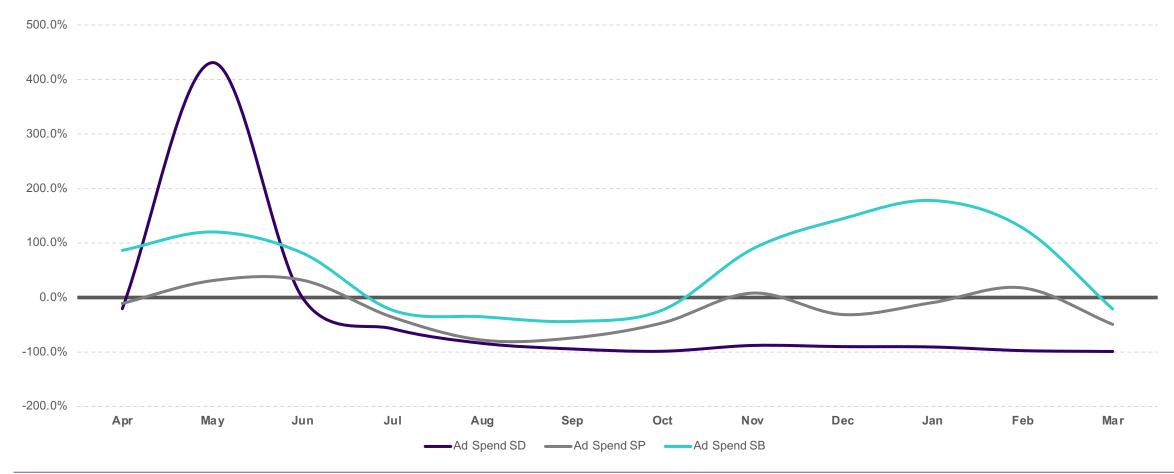
Ad spend grew slightly to start Q1 before falling in March, correlating with a substantial improvement in ROAS. This presents a potential opportunity to invest in profitable growth going into Q2.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



### The fall in ad spend in March 2024 correlated with a decline across all ad types.

### YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)

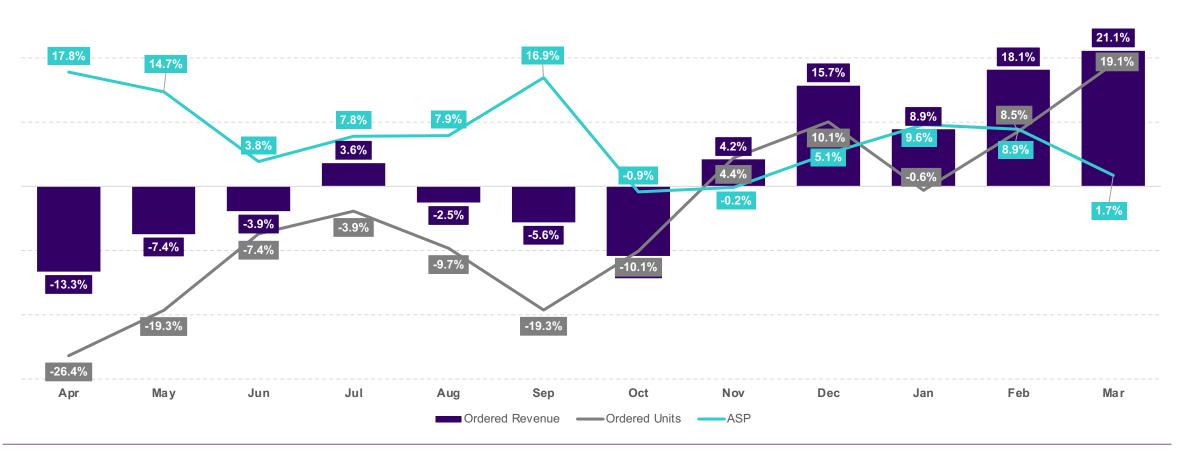


# Toys Category

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap

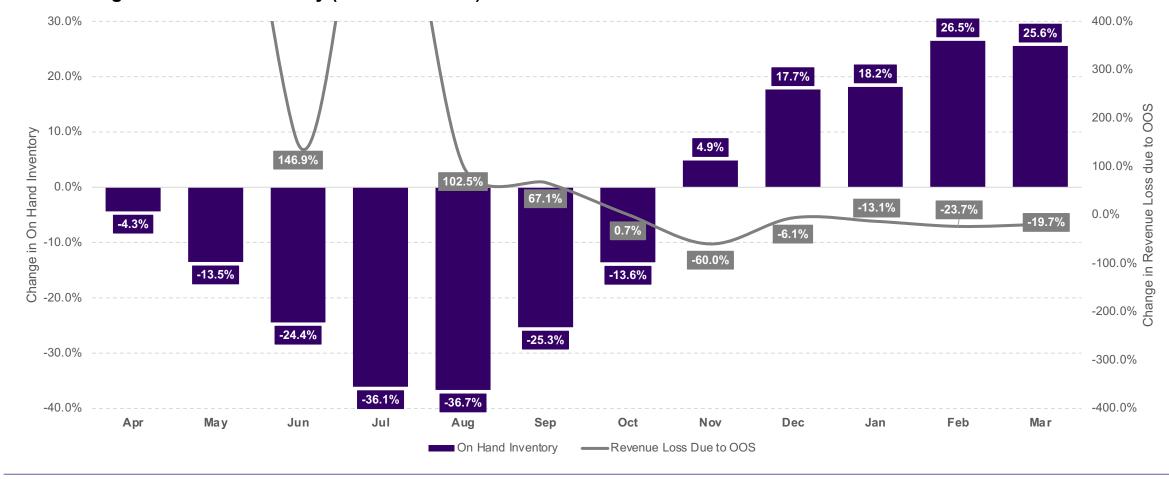
Ordered Revenue increased in Q1, driven primarily by a combination of an increase in ordered units and ASP.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



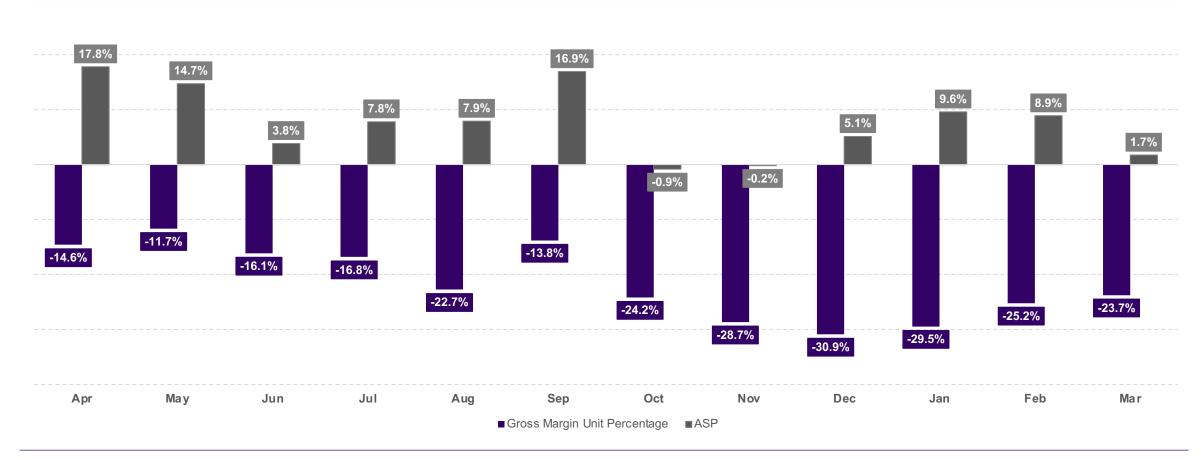
#### Brands continued to grow inventory levels, which correlated with a decline in revenue losses.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Brands saw a consistent degradation in Gross Margins, despite an increase in ASP. This indicates the decline in Gross Margins is likely due to an increase in COGS or discount levels.

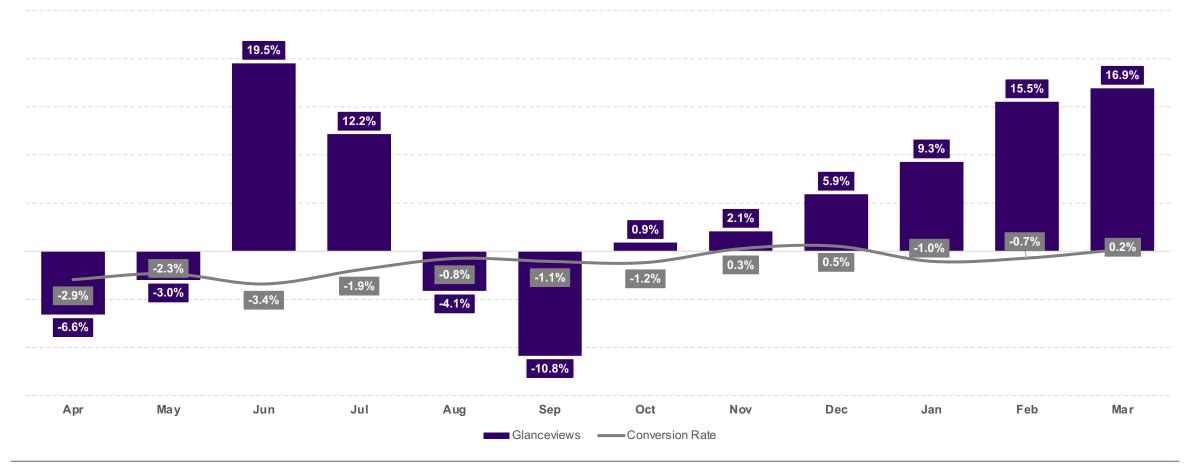
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

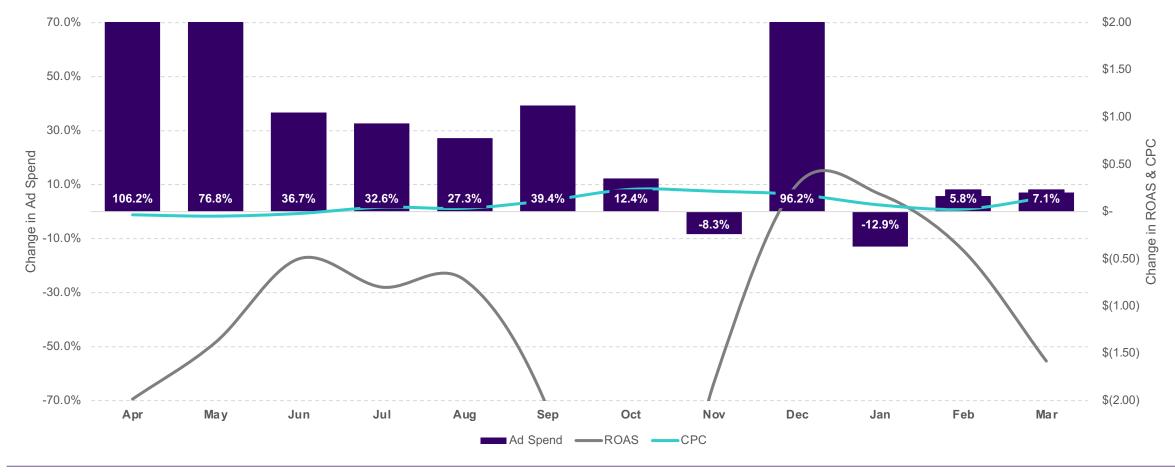
## Conversion rates remained relatively constant while glance views continued to grow steadily in Q1.

YoY % Change in Glance Views and Unit Conversion % (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



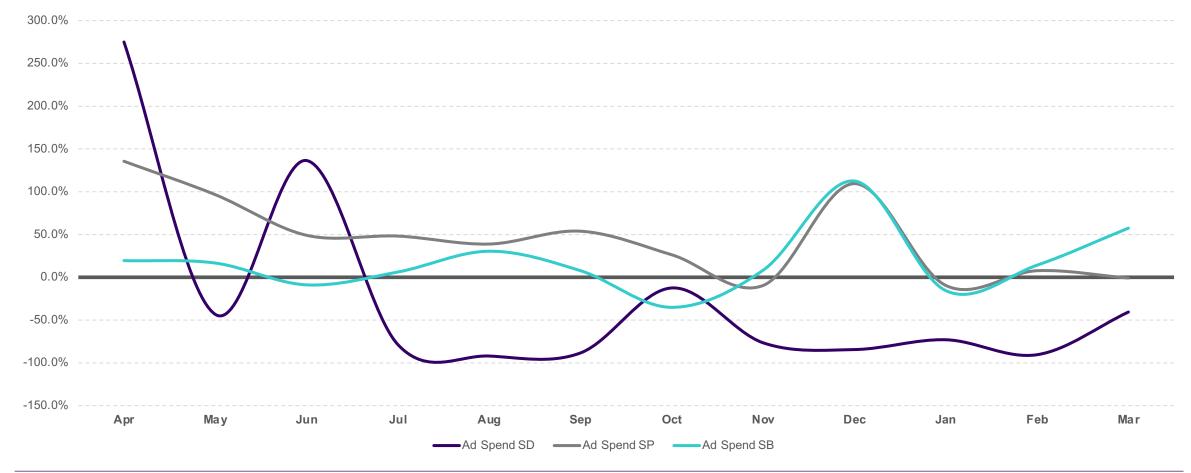
Ad spend held relatively constant in Q1, correlating with a decline in ROAS. Combined with an increase in glance views, this likely indicates reduction in performance is due to individual brands ad strategies versus an increase in competitiveness in the category.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Sponsored Brand was the primary ad type that grew, offset by a decline in Sponsored Product and Display.

YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)

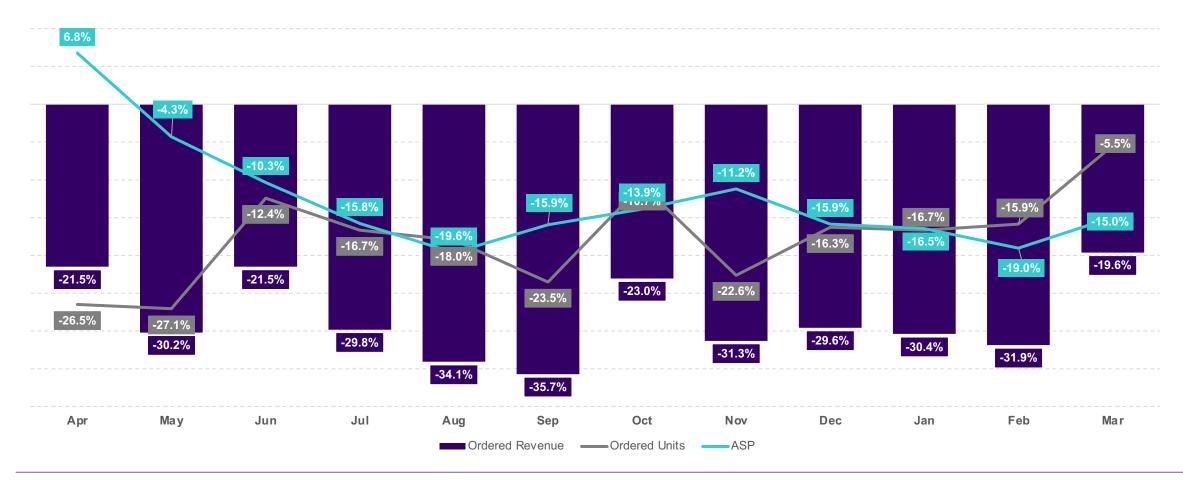


# Furniture Category

Q2 2023 to Q1 2024 Recap

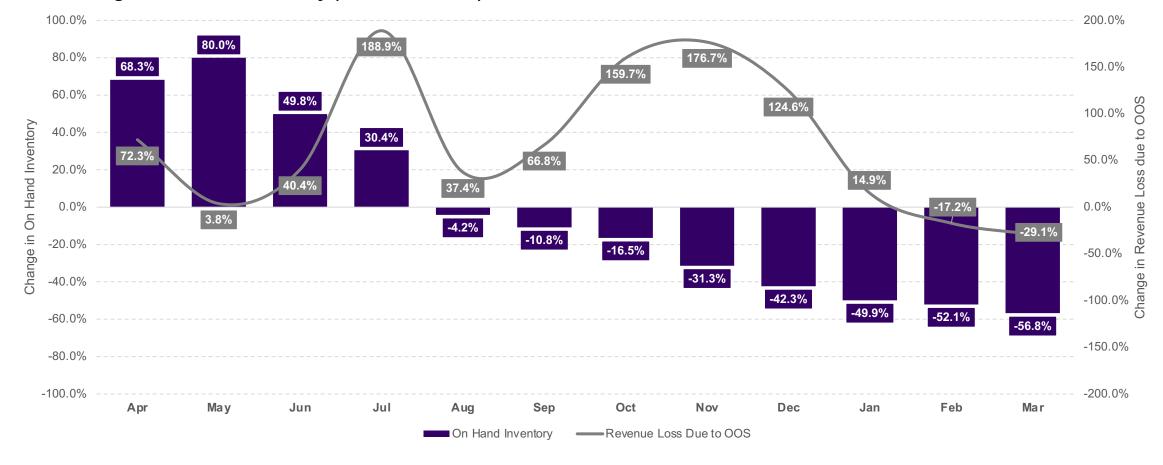
Ordered Revenue has continued to fall YoY, driven by a combination of an decrease in ordered units and ASP.

YoY % Change in Ordered Revenue, Ordered Units and ASP (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



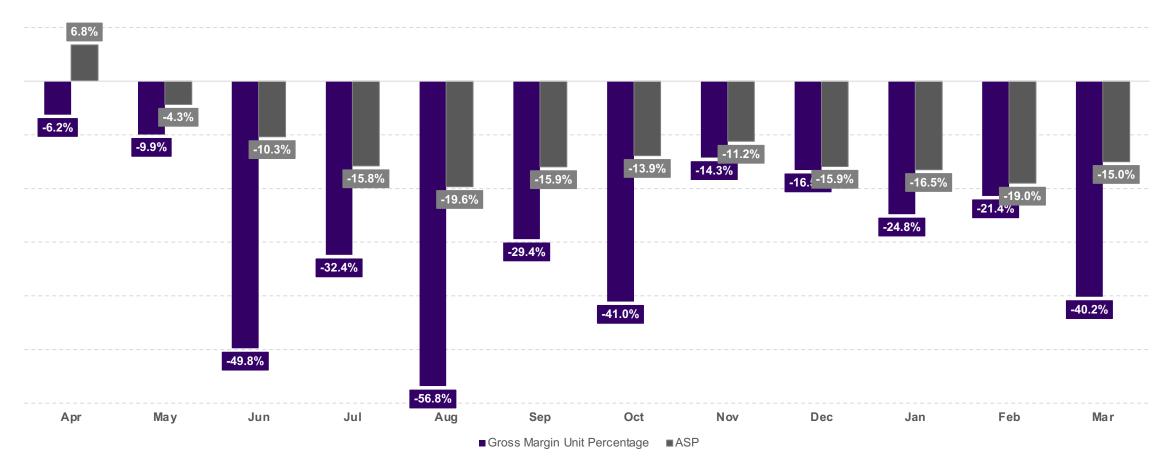
Inventory levels continue to fall, however brands within the category have been able to stem revenue losses due to out of stocks in Feb / March, likely due to better inventory mix and SKU-level forecasting.

YoY % Change in On Hand Inventory (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Brands saw a consistent degradation in Gross Margins, which is driven primarily by a decline in ASP. In March, there is a large gap between ASP and the Margin decline, likely indicating a massive increase in COGS or discounts.

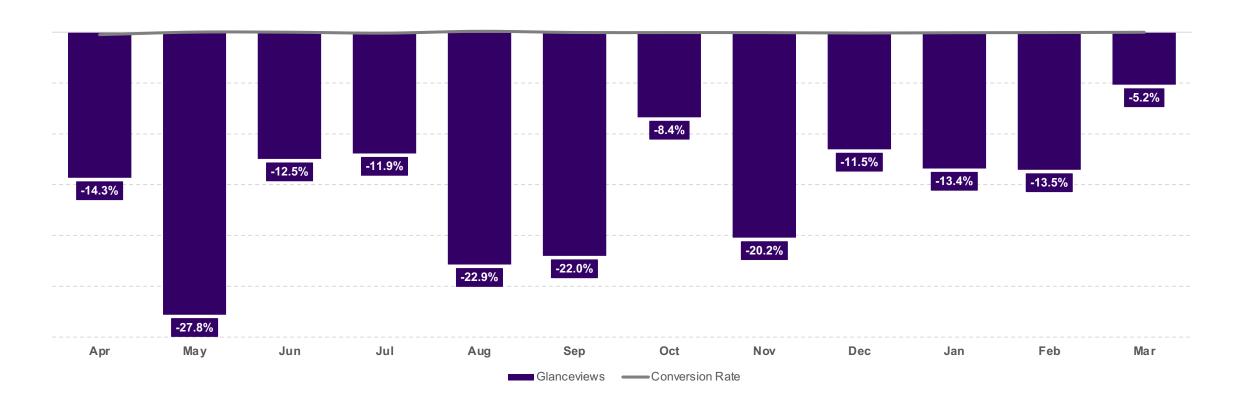
YoY % Change in Gross Margins\* and ASP (Q2 '23 vs. Q1 '24)



Source: Internal data in aggregate from CommercelQ's REM Platform for Amazon users from January 2022 to March 2024. \*Amazon Gross Margins.

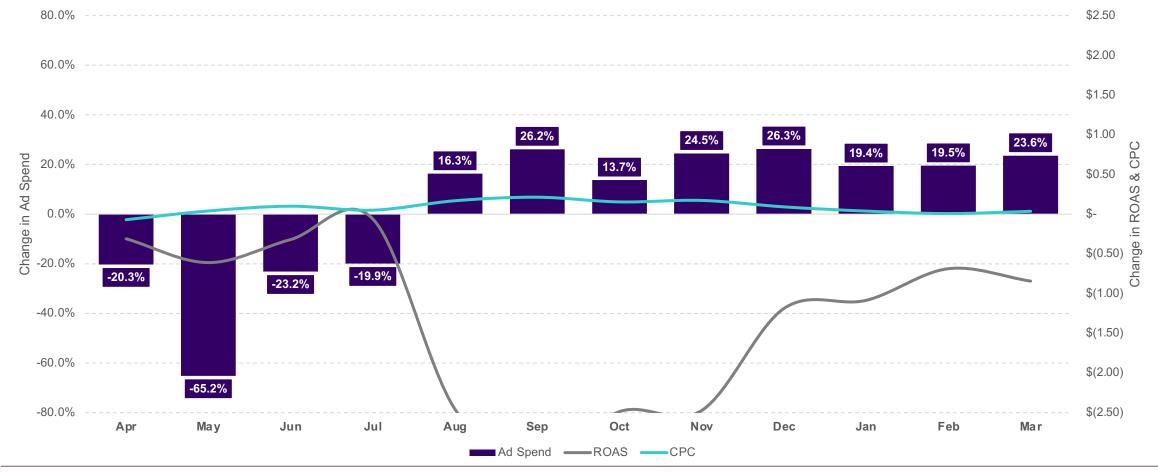
## Glance Views across the category continue to be down YoY, with some slight trend towards recovery in March.

#### YoY % Change in Glance Views (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Ad Spend has risen YoY across the category, which combined with depressed glance views and reduced ASP has resulted in an incredibly competitive category. ROAS continues to suffer as a result, sitting well below previous years figures.

YoY % Change in Ad Spend, and YoY \$ Change in ROAS and CPC (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



Starting in Q4, we saw a significant change in strategy, with brands trading investment and reducing spend in Sponsored Display, and instead investing into Sponsored Brand, with a slight increase in Sponsored Product.

YoY % Change in Sponsored Display, Sponsored Product and Sponsored Brand Ad Spend (Q2 '23 to Q1 '24)



## **Contact Us**

Contact CommercelQ at https://www.commerceiq.ai/demo/ CommercelQ | 2100 Geng Rd Suite 210, Palo Alto, CA 94303 www.commerceiq.ai

**Not Licensed For Distribution.** 

© 2024 CommerceIQ. All trademarks are property of their respective owners.

