

Four of the Top Retail Cannabis Stocks for 2019

For most of 2018, pot stocks exploded on news of Canadian legalization, U.S. states approving its medicinal or recreational use, and corporate America interest. We even saw the U.S. FDA approved the very first cannabis-derived drug, as well as the 2018 Farm Bill, which legalized hemp and hemp-based CBD.

Lawmakers in Kentucky and West Virginia are now considering full marijuana legalization. Indiana, Missouri, Texas and Virginia could also soon vote on legalization bills that were recently introduced; all as legalization just begins to spread across the U.S.

According to analysts at Cowen, U.S. cannabis sales alone could reach \$80 billion by 2030 – an increase of \$5 billion from earlier estimates, and a 4% compound annual growth rate.

Globally, Piper Jaffray believes the market for legal cannabis could be worth \$15 billion to \$50 billion a year, with global sales growing to \$250 billion to \$500 billion. All thanks to growing acceptance and legalization in countries around the world.

The best part – marijuana’s cultural renaissance has only just begun.

Even major retailers are waking up to the opportunity.

DSW for example, has been running tests in its stores with CBD, announcing plans to expand such products to nearly 100 stores. Neiman Marcus is pushing ahead with CBD sales at some of its stores and online. Simon Property Group is partnering with Green Growth Brands to open 108 stores in its malls in 2019.

Barney’s is launching “The High End,” a luxury cannabis retail shop in Beverly Hills, California in partnership with cannabis company, Beboe.

"Barneys New York has always been at the forefront of shifts in culture and lifestyle, and cannabis is no exception," said Daniella Vitale, Chief Executive Officer & President, Barneys New York. "Many of our customers have made cannabis a part of their lifestyle, and The High End caters to their needs with extraordinary products and service they experience in every facet of Barneys New York."

Now, even the CEO of Whole Foods has indicated he’s keeping a close eye on cannabis regulation, suggesting that it could show up on shelves. “If cannabis is ever passed in Texas,” he said, as quoted by Leafly, “chances are good that grocery stores will be selling that, too.”

In fact, if Texas gets its way, we may see cannabis products at Whole Foods very soon.

Top Cannabis Stocks to Watch

Curaleaf Holdings Inc. (CURLF) just opened 42 retail stores with hopes of having 67 stores up and running by the end of the year.

Green Thumb Industries Inc. (GTBIF) owns and operates a national chain of retail cannabis stores called RISE dispensaries.

Tilray Inc. (TLRY) just jumped into the U.S. CBD market after agreeing to acquire Manitoba Harvest for \$317 million in cash and stock. Following the purchase, Tilray has plans to launch CBD-derived products in the U.S. as early as this summer. Manitoba Harvest CEO Bill Chiasson said the “current plan is to introduce a line of CBD-infused tinctures, a CBD spray and CBD gel caps,” as quoted by MarketWatch. ““We have retailers who have expressed a lot of interest in that, in states where it’s more friendly.”

Green Growth Brands (GGBXF) is a likely beneficiary, as well. The company, whose goal is to become North America's leading retailer of cannabis and CBD products, is preparing to market its CBD personal care products under its Seventh Sense Brand. It also just opened its first Seventh Sense CBD shop in Kentucky, where it is selling botanical therapy CBD-infused personal care and beauty products, including a CBD-infused body lotion, muscle balm, body wash, bath salts, a sugar scrub, a bath bomb, lip balm, and face oil.

However, this is just the start for GGB, which is looking to launch stores in malls across America, signing prime lease agreements throughout the U.S. In fact, it just recently entered into an agreement to gain access to 108 prime shop locations operated by Simon Property Group.