

The Future of Food Retailing in the U.S.: Shopper Insights and Market Opportunities, 4th Edition

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Abstracts

The retail market for foods and beverages is undergoing some of its greatest changes since supermarkets came to the fore in the 1940s and '50s. Economic, demographic, lifestyle and technological changes have created not only a fertile environment but the absolute necessity for new concepts to engage shoppers, capture share of stomach, and re-invent food and beverage retailing.

While the greatest competition to supermarkets and grocery stores comes from supersized “one-stop shopping” venues like supercenters and warehouse clubs, the threat has spread out across myriad retail channels, including drugstores, dollar stores, limited assortment chains, and (the elephant in the room) online grocery shopping. Although supermarkets remain the majority force in food shopping, they are no longer calling the shots—a role now shared with Whole Foods and Trader Joe’s on the natural/specialty side, Walmart, club stores, and dollar stores on the value front, and farmers markets and food trucks in trend-setting.

At the same time, 2012 and 2013 have been big years for mergers and acquisitions in the retail food industry, as strategic buyers and private investors seek a way to expand their businesses to additional markets. And while the economy has shown positive signs of recovery in the past year, many consumers remain buffeted if not traumatized by higher gas prices, rising food prices, mounting healthcare costs, and increased payroll taxes. As a result, most are still feeling economically squeezed and spending-shy.

This study provides in-depth analysis of trends in four key retail channels through which foods and beverages are sold:

Grocery—supermarkets, natural food stores, small grocery stores, ethnic

markets, specialized food stores, and gourmet/specialty stores;

Value—supercenters, mass merchandisers, warehouse clubs, dollar stores, and limited assortment stores such as ALDI;

Convenience—convenience stores and drugstores; and

Alternative—online grocery services, vending machines, farmers' markets and community supported agriculture programs (CSAs), and other alternative venues.

Among the topics examined are which types of stores they shop, how much they spend, how they plan for their trip and what in-store services they use; attitudes toward wellness, nutrition, food labeling, natural/organic foods, food safety, and store brands; and which food departments attract shoppers to stores.

The data analyzed in Food Shopper Insights are largely derived from Packaged Facts February/March 2013 Food Shopper Insights (FSI) Survey, supplemented by data from our Food Shopper Insights (FSI) Survey conducted in June 2013. Each survey had a sample size of 2,000 U.S. adults who had shopped for groceries within 24 hours of being surveyed. The sample composition is representative of the national population by gender, age bracket, geographic region, race/ethnicity, household income bracket, and presence of children in the household.

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