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"Candles are widely used and enjoyed in American households. However, this market faces some big challenges. Candle usage frequency needs to increase to reinvigorate sales, private label products present a growing threat to branded products, and some benefits that communicate value to the consumer (i.e., long-lasting) could actually be detrimental to market growth."

— Gabriela Elani, Home & Personal Care Analyst

In this report we answer the key questions:

- · Increase candle usage occasions and frequency of use
- · Private label candle products are a growing presence in the market
- Innovations in longer-lasting candles could slow market growth

The U.S. candles market has struggled in the past few years since the onset of the recession, but is beginning to show signs of recovery. In 2013, total U.S. retail sales for candle products are \$3.14 billion and the market posted a 0.3% sales increase during 2012-13, the first positive growth experienced in several years. Consumer confidence in the economy is increasing and consumers are slowly starting to spend on discretionary household items again. Mintel expects that the category will experience flat sales into 2018, with some small increases and declines over the upcoming five-year period.

Candle companies should focus product development and marketing efforts on consumer groups who are heavily engaged with the category and view candles as a lifestyle product, which includes younger age segments and multiethnic consumer segments. Another strong opportunity for the market is promoting candle usage beyond just for eliminating odors and adding seasonal ambiance. Encouraging the use of candles for more spontaneous, personal occasions when in the home could influence people to use their candles more often and subsequently make more frequent candle purchases.

The key focus of the 2013 report will be on understanding current candle usage behaviors and the opportunities to increase consumer candle usage. This report analyzes U.S. sales performance candle products in the past five years, the market forecast through 2018. This report explores the how often consumers use candles, where they purchase candles, and what factors they take into account when making candle purchases. Consumers' attitudes concerning candles and their perceptions of candle quality are also discussed in this year's report.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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Table of Contents

Scope and Themes

What you need to know

Definition

Data sources

Sales data

Consumer survey data

Advertising creative

Abbreviations and terms

Abbreviations

Terms

Executive Summary

The market

Figure 1: Total U.S. retail sales and fan chart forecast of candles, at current prices, 2008-18

Market factors

Consumers have a more positive economic outlook

Growing multiethnic segments will help the market

Candle safety could impact market

Market players

Figure 2: MULO sales of candles, by leading companies, 2013

The consumer

Women and younger consumers most likely to use candles

Figure 3: Usage of candles for any reason, by gender and age, May 2013

Candle usage frequency varies

Market players should focus on personal usage occasions for candles

Figure 4: Candle usage occasions, May 2013

Mass merchandisers and specialty stores top retailers

Unsurprisingly, scent and price are top purchase criteria

Figure 5: Importance of candle purchase factors, May 2013

What we think

Issues and Insights

Increase candle usage occasions and frequency of use

The issues

The implications

Private label candle products are a growing presence in the market

The issues

The implications



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Innovations in longer-lasting candles could slow market growth

The issues

The implications

Trend Applications

Trend: Man in the Mirror
Trend: Extend My Brand
Mintel Futures: East Meets West

Market Size and Forecast

Key points

Candles market continues to struggle

Sales and forecast of candles

Figure 6: Total U.S. retail sales and forecast of candles, at current prices, 2008-18

Figure 7: Total U.S. retail sales and forecast of candles, at inflation-adjusted prices, 2008-18

Fan chart forecast

Figure 8: Total U.S. retail sales and fan chart forecast of candles, at current prices, 2008-18

Market Drivers

Key points

Consumer confidence rising, to the benefit of the candles market

Figure 9: University of Michigan's index of consumer sentiment (ICS), 2008-13

Growing ethnic populations may help market

Figure 10: Population, by race and Hispanic Origin, 2008-18

Safety concerns can impact category

Competitive Context

Air fresheners are main competition for candles market

Figure 11: Types of air fresheners used, January 2012-March 2013

Retail Channels

Key points

Most candles purchased through "other retail channels"

Figure 12: Retail locations, May 2013

Supermarkets and drug stores struggle for sales

Sales of candles, by channel

Figure 13: Total U.S. retail sales of candles, by channel, at current prices, 2011 and 2013

Figure 14: Total U.S. retail sales of candles, by channel, at current prices, 2008-13

Leading Companies

Key points

Private label and "other companies" have strongest presence

MULO manufacturer sales of candles

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Figure 15: MULO manufacturer sales of candles, by leading companies, 2012 and 2013

Brand Share—Leading MULO Manufacturers

Key points

SC Johnson leading manufacturer

Yankee Candle struggles

Air Wick sees success

Candle manufacturers with \$30 million+ in MULO sales

Figure 16: MULO sales and brand share for companies with \$30 million+ in MULO sales, 2012 and 2013

Brand Share—Other Manufacturers

Key points

Some smaller MULO players growing

Candle manufacturers with \$10-29.9 million in MULO sales

Figure 17: MULO sales and brand share for companies with \$10-29.9 million in MULO sales, 2012 and 2013

Innovations and Innovators

Bath & Body Works leading 2013 with most product launches

Figure 18: Candle product launches, by company, 2008-13

Private label launches growing

Figure 19: Share of branded and private label candle launches, 2008-13

Seasonal claims overtake botanical/herbal claims in 2012

Figure 20: Incidence of claims associated with new candles product launches, 2008-13

Bath & Body Works launching numerous collections

Scents for men

Seasonal scents

Expanded private label offerings

Destination scent collections

Greater variety of wax melt products

Marketing Strategies

Overview

Theme: Targeting men with male-specific products

Mandle Company

Figure 21: Mandle Company Website, July 2013

ManCans

Figure 22: ManCans Website, July 2013

Theme: Creating ambiance in the home

Glade

Figure 23: Glade TV commercial, "Fragrant Setting," October 2012

Air Wick

Figure 24: Air Wick Website, Black Edition Color Changing Candle, July 2013

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Theme: Focusing on Scent Collections

Glade

Figure 25: Glade Website, Tropical Collection July 2013

Figure 26: Glade In-Store Pallet Display, July 2013

Bath & Body Works

Figure 27: Bath & Body Work Website, Lakeside Summer Collection, Mahogany Teakwood and Boathouse Row, July 2013

Air Wick

Figure 28: Air Wick Website, National Park Collection, July 2013

Candle Usage

Key points

Candles widely used and enjoyed for scent and decoration

Figure 29: Candle usage, May 2013

Women demonstrate highest incidence of use, but men are also using candles

Young consumers overindex in their use of wax melts

Figure 30: Usage of candles for any reason, by gender and age, May 2013

Figure 31: Repertoire of usage of candles, by gender and age, May 2013

Middle- to higher- income households most likely to use candles

Figure 32: Usage of candles for any reason, by household income, May 2013

Candle Usage Frequency

Key points

Candle usage frequency varies across general population

Figure 33: Candle usage frequency, by gender and age, May 2013

Those who use multiple types of candles are frequent users

Figure 34: Candle usage frequency, by repertoire of usage of candles, May 2013

Wax melt users among most likely to be using them once a day

Figure 35: Candle usage frequency, by usage of candle, May 2013

Figure 36: Candle usage frequency, by usage of candle, May 2013 (continued)

Candle Usage Occasions

Key points

Candle users are looking to mask odors and add seasonal ambiance

Figure 37: Candle usage occasions, by gender and age, May 2013

Less affluent consumers use candles for practical reasons

Figure 38: Candle usage occasions, by household income, May 2013

Retail Locations

Key points

Candle users buy candles at mass merchandisers and specialty stores

Figure 39: Retail locations, by gender and age, May 2013

Higher-income consumers most likely to shop at specialty stores

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Figure 40: Retail locations, by household income, May 2013

Mass merchandisers offer candles that meet purchase criteria

Figure 41: Retail locations, by importance of purchase factors, May 2013

Figure 42: Retail locations, by importance of purchase factors, May 2013 (continued)

Purchase Factors

Key points

Candle buyers place the greatest importance on scent and price

Figure 43: Importance of candle purchase factors, May 2013

Women and men diverge in what matters to them in buying candles

Figure 44: Importance of candle purchase factors, by gender and age, May 2013

Affluence impacts importance of purchase criteria

Figure 45: Importance of candle purchase factors, by household income, May 2013

Attitudes Concerning Candles

Key points

Consumers want their homes to smell good and deliver a nice ambiance

Figure 46: Attitudes concerning candles, May 2013

Younger men have an affinity for name brands

Figure 47: Agreement concerning attitudes toward candles, by gender and age, May 2013

More affluent consumers have stronger quality associations

Figure 48: Agreement with attitudes toward candles, by household income, May 2013

Race and Hispanic Origin

Key points

Hispanics most likely to use candles in their homes

Figure 49: Usage of candles, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013

Hispanics most likely to use greatest repertoire of candles

Figure 50: Repertoire of usage of candles, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013

Hispanics most likely to burn candles once a day and a few times a week

Figure 51: Candle usage frequency, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013 $\,$

Asian/Pacific Islanders buying candles at more expensive retailers

Figure 52: Retail locations, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013

Asian buyers have a number of purchase criteria; Hispanics are looking for multiple sizes

Figure 53: Importance of candle purchase factors, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013

Scent matters to black consumers; Asians have strong quality associations

Figure 54: Agreement with attitudes concerning candles, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013 $\,$

Cluster Analysis

Figure 55: Target clusters, May 2013

Cluster 1: Seasonal

Opportunities

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Cluster 2: Enthusiasts

Opportunities

Cluster 3: Traditional

Opportunities
Cluster 4: Basic
Opportunities

Cluster characteristic tables

Figure 56: Usage of candles, by target clusters, May 2013

Figure 57: Usage of candles for burning, by target clusters, May 2013

Figure 58: Usage of candles for decorating, by target clusters, May 2013

Figure 59: Candle usage frequency, by target clusters, May 2013

Figure 60: Candle usage occasions, by target clusters, May 2013

Figure 61: Retail locations, by target clusters, May 2013

Figure 62: Importance of purchase factors, by target clusters, May 2013

Figure 63: Agreement with attitudes toward candles, by target clusters, May 2013

Figure 64: Repertoire of usage of candles, by target clusters, May 2013

Cluster demographics

Figure 65: Target clusters, by demographic, May 2013

Appendix—Other Useful Consumer Tables

Candle usage

Figure 66: Usage of candles for burning, by gender, May 2013

Figure 67: Usage of candles for burning, by age, May 2013

Figure 68: Usage of candles for burning, by gender and age, May 2013

Figure 69: Usage of candles for burning, by household income, May 2013

Figure 70: Usage of candles for decorating, by gender, May 2013

Figure 71: Usage of candles for decorating, by gender and age, May 2013

Figure 72: Usage of candles for decorating, by age, May 2013

Figure 73: Usage of candles for decorating, by household income, May 2013 $\,$

Figure 74: Usage of candles for burning, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013

Figure 75: Usage of candles for decorating, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013 $\,$

Figure 76: Repertoire of usage of candles, by household income, May 2013

Candle usage frequency

Figure 77: Candle usage frequency, by gender, May 2013

Figure 78: Candle usage frequency, by age, May 2013

Figure 79: Candle usage frequency, by household income, May 2013

Candle usage occasions

Figure 80: Candle usage occasions, by gender, May 2013

Figure 81: Candle usage occasions, by age, May 2013

Figure 82: Candle usage occasions, by race/Hispanic origin, May 2013

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Figure 83: Candle usage occasions, by repertoire of usage of candles, May 2013

Retail locations

Figure 84: Retail locations, by gender, May 2013 Figure 85: Retail locations, by age, May 2013

Purchase factors

Figure 86: Importance of candle purchase factors, by gender, May 2013 Figure 87: Importance of candle purchase factors, by age, May 2013

Attitudes concerning candles

Figure 88: Agreement with attitudes toward candles, by gender, May 2013 Figure 89: Agreement with attitudes toward candles, by age, May 2013

Appendix—Trade Associations

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