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"With their everyday low pricing structure the discounters have shown consumers that they don't need to build up points or jump through hoops to get the lowest prices. Instead, loyalty schemes have become more about adding additional value to a purchase or enhancing a shopping experience than about cost cutting."

— Thomas Slide, Retail Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- What loyalty schemes are people using?
- · How are digital innovations changing loyalty schemes and what do consumers think of it?
- How do consumers perceive the value of loyalty schemes and what can be done to encourage uptake and engagement?

The way consumers see and use retail loyalty schemes has been changing as the discounters have shown consumers the benefits of an everyday low pricing scheme rather than using overly complicated promotions or having long lead times between spend and reward.

Consumers favour more frequent rewards that do not require high levels of pre-requisite spending but enhance their shopping experience rather than being simply about vouchers and cost-cutting. A good example is the recently launched M&S Sparks scheme that regularly offers invitations to events and special promotions which increase in value depending on the amount a customer spends or engages with the brand online.

The level of resistance we found towards smartphone-based innovations shows that retailers need to do more to demonstrate to consumers the benefits this can bring in terms of relevance and convenience. By enhancing the multichannel nature of loyalty schemes, retailers should also be able to appeal to a younger audience that our research found are less likely to be members of retail loyalty schemes.

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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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