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"Signalling a warning to the snacks market, cutting back on snacks is seen widely by people as an easy way to reduce their calorie intake and to feel as though they are taking action on health. However, there is demand for products that help consumers with portion control, thus offering permissibility and helping them to pace themselves when snacking. This is key to keeping consumers in the market." – Amy Price, Senior Food and Drink Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- Smaller formats offer portion control and permissibility to allow snackers to stay in the market
- Portability would aid snackers across multiple locations
- Targeting 'day-parts' such as morning or evening provide an opportunity to manufacturers

This Report looks at consumers' snacking habits, defined as eating between meals, for example fruit, biscuits or crisps, among others. The Report will look at snacking at home, elsewhere (eg at work) and on-the-go (eg when travelling), consumers' snack choices and attitudes towards snacks.

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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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The implications

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#### The Market – What You Need to Know

Health remains an issue

Consumer caution - and price rises - could hit discretionary spending

Cakes lead NPD

Health-led NPD

Adspend up in 2016; with Mars in the lead

Trust and differentiation is high for snacking brands

#### **Market Drivers**

Health remains an issue

Obesity keeps healthy eating on government agenda

Sugar is a top concern...

...but there is room for indulgence

Consumer caution - and price rises - could hit discretionary spending

Household budgets to come under pressure

Rising snack prices

"Shrinkflation"

Demographic changes could impact the market

Younger people are the core snackers

Figure 8: Those snacking once a day or more, by age, December 2016

Growth in over-55s poses a challenge

Catering to families

#### Launch Activity and Innovation

Definition

Cakes lead NPD

Premier Foods targets OTG and young

Pladis relaunches on-the-go cakes

#### Brands dominate NPD, Asda retains lead in 2016

Figure 9: New product launches in the UK snacks market, by brands vs own-label, 2012-16

#### On-the-go launches remain niche

Figure 10: New product launches in the UK snacks market, by the on-the-go claim, 2012-16

#### Biscuits look to OTG with smaller packs

New savoury snacks look to portability

Haribo extends impulse range

Sharing occasions continue to provide an incentive to NPD

In crisps

...chocolate

...biscuits

...and cakes

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Healthier snacks for sharing

Tapping into seasonal occasions

Smaller packs/pieces offer portion control

Biscuits and cakes

Cheese snacks look to minis and bars

The "thins" trend continues in snacking

Health-led NPD

Figure 11: New product launches in the UK snacks market, by selected health claims, 2012-16

Sugar claims remain low, despite rise

Yogurt brands continue to focus on fat and sugar

Focusing on positive nutrition

In cakes and cake bars

Ancient grains and pulses

Mars looks to high protein in chocolate

Gluten-free claims continue to rise

Figure 12: New product launches in the UK snacks market, by the gluten-free claim, 2012-16

Flavour innovation provides a means of differentiation

Sweet and salty trend

South American flavours

Brands look to adult-inspired flavours for premiumisation

Flavour tie-ups

Doritos looks to mystery and dual-flavours

Snackification seen in other food categories

#### **Advertising and Marketing Activity**

Adspend up 10% to £290 million in 2016, with chocolate continuing to take the lead

Figure 13: Total above-the line, online display and direct mail advertising expenditure on snacks, 2013-16

Figure 14: Total above-the line, online display and direct mail advertising expenditure on snacks, by category (sorted by 2016), 2013-16

Mars is highest spending advertiser, despite cutting back

Mars maintains support for Galaxy...

...and marks M&M anniversary and Olympics

Figure 15: Total above-the line, online display and direct mail advertising expenditure on snacks, by top 10 advertisers (sorted by 2016), 2013-16

Mondelēz increases spend on Cadbury and Ritz and Thin

Cadbury supports singles bars with 'Obey Your Mouth'

Return of the Milk Tray Man and Snapchat for Crème Egg

Focus on baked and flavour for Ritz

Ferrero focuses on Christmas

Hotel Chocolat dramatically increases spend

Nestlé supports KitKat and Rowntree's

Haribo continues Kids' Voices campaign

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Walkers maintains consistent adspend, Hula Hoops to return to screens

Walkers dominates adspend on crisps

Doritos continues its 'For the Bold' campaign

Hula Hoops to return to screens

Yogurt advertisers increase spend

Müller supports Corners and Light

Danone centres on 'inner strength' for Activia

Pladis increases spend in biscuits

Campaigns through alternative channels

Cadbury sponsors the Premier League

Danone teams up with Spotify

KitKat brings Chocolatory pop-up to the UK

KitKat and Mr Kipling look to on-pack activity

Nielsen Ad Intel coverage

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#### Methodology

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#### The Consumer – What You Need to Know

#### 93% snack

63% snack once a day or more, rising to 76% of 16-34s

79% snack at home

Opportunities for NPD that facilitates out of home occasions

#### Taste trumps health for 52%

Health is a priority in the morning; indulgence of an evening

#### Snack Usage

93% snack

Figure 21: Snacks eaten between meals, December 2016

Fresh fruit is the most popular snack

Less healthy options also prove popular

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**49% eat five or more types of snacks** Figure 22: Repertoire of snacks eaten between meals, December 2016

#### 63% snack once a day or more, rising to 76% of 16-34s

Figure 23: Frequency of eating snacks, December 2016

#### 79% snack at home

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Out of home occasions are also common

#### 47% of employees snack at work

18% snack on-the-go, rising to 30% of 16-24s

#### **Behaviours Related to Snacking**

Opportunities for NPD that facilitates out of home occasions

#### Resealability is in high demand

Figure 25: Behaviours related to snacking, December 2016

#### 57% cut back for health reasons

Smaller, luxurious versions appeal

#### Newness acts as a prompt, especially to 16-34s

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#### **Attitudes towards Snacking**

#### Taste trumps health for 52%

Figure 28: Attitudes towards snacking, December 2016

Room for healthier versions

Surprising acceptance of positive nutrition in indulgent snacks

#### Portion control offers permissibility

'Mini' packs appeal widely

Parents struggle to find snacks suitable for the whole household

#### **Attributes Sought for Snacking Occasions**

#### Health is a priority in the morning...

Energy and fillingness also appeal

#### ...while indulgence rises as a priority throughout the day

Figure 29: Correspondence analysis of attributes sought for snacking occasions, December 2016

Figure 30: Attributes sought for snacking occasions, December 2016

#### Opportunities for night-focused snacking

#### Methodology

Appendix – Data Sources, Abbreviations and Supporting Information

#### Abbreviations

Consumer research methodology

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#### CHAID – Methodology

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