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"The prepared meals category reversed its downward course in 2015 and 2016 with small increases that nearly wiped out declines in the three previous years. Total sales of \$10.5 billion in 2016 are up about 3% from a low point in 2014 but still below their 2011 level by about 1%."

- John Owen, Senior Food & Drink Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- Penetration high for prepared meals overall
- Convenience drives purchase; other areas could drive growth
- Mix of health and taste important to both individual and family shoppers

The prepared meals category experienced modest growth in 2015 and 2016, but sales remain below their 2011 level. Weak results are in line with a broader move away from more processed foods in favor of fresher and healthier alternatives. Still, the category's defining convenience benefit remains compelling, and there is considerable opportunity for products made from natural ingredients and highlighting specific health benefits.

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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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Penetration high for prepared meals overall

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