

Report Price: £3302.97 | \$4460.00 | €3717.16

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.



"In the post registration era, leading players are gaining bigger market share with unqualified players being squeezed out. Big SKU strategies have also helped established brands strengthen winning positions by concentrating resources on research and marketing."

- Cici Wu, Senior Research Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- Strategy pivot in response to decreasing birth rate
- Special formula serving rising number of babies diagnosed with allergies
- Solid control of upstream resources can help win the premium sectors

Although a declining birth rate sounds alarm bells for IMF demand, willingness to trade up to more premium products is strong, especially when parents are keen on selecting IMF that best fits their babies' physical condition and are still demanding a longer list of fortified nutrition. Premium sectors like organic, goat as well as special formula are expected to witness promising growth.

BUY THIS REPORT NOW

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL:EMEA
+44 (0) 20 7606 4533

Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250

China +86 (21) 6032 7300

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: reports@mintel.com

DID YOU KNOW?

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



Report Price: £3302.97 | \$4460.00 | €3717.16

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Table of Contents

Overview

What you need to know

Products covered in this report

Definitions

Figure 1: Mintel's definition of different income groups, China

Executive Summary

The market

Value growth slowing down amid shrinking demand

Figure 2: Best-and worst-case volume sales forecast of IMF market, China, 2013-23

Figure 3: Best-and worst-case value sales forecast of IMF market, China, 2013-23

Build technology strength to cope with ingredient shortage

Lucrative yet challenging market for international players

Companies and brands

Leading brands gaining bigger share

Expanded categories and distribution to grow business

Innovation centres around additional health benefits

The consumer

Brand preference exists in different regions and generations

Figure 4: Infant milk formula brand bought, December 2018

Demand for more fortified nutrition

Figure 5: Attitudes towards fortified nutrition, December 2018

Finding the best fit is of top priority

Figure 6: Purchase factors ranking, December 2018

Premium and special formula IMF receive high interest

Figure 7: Usage and interest in specific infant milk formula, December 2018

Experience and authority win more trust

Figure 8: Most trustworthy information source, December 2018

Parents have yet to realize benefits of breast feeding

Figure 9: Attitudes towards breastfeeding, December 2018

What we think

Issues and Insights

Strategy pivot in response to decreasing birth rate

The facts

The implications

Figure 10: NPD of infant milk formula in China, by sub-category, 2016-18

Figure 11: Mengniu's Doraler goat infant milk powder for bigger babies and young children

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300



Report Price: £3302.97 | \$4460.00 | €3717.16

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Special formula serving rising number of babies diagnosed with allergies

The facts

The implications

Figure 12: Enfamil Nutramigen ready-to-use hypoallergenic infant formula, USA

Solid control of upstream resources can help win the premium sectors

The facts

The implications

The Market - What You Need to Know

Stagnant value growth despite shrinking volume demand

Control over ingredient helps increase competitiveness

Market regulation brings pros and cons

Market Size and Forecast

Plummeting birth rate further brings down volume demand

Figure 13: Best-and worst-case volume sales forecast of IMF market, China, 2013-23

Market value expected to remain stable

Figure 14: Best-and worst-case value sales forecast of IMF market, China, 2013-23

Market Factors

Fewer newborns to be fed

Ingredient shortages highlight need for manufacturing upgrade

IMF market continues to face strict regulations

Changing market dynamic for IMF imports

Key Players - What You Need to Know

Game of big players

Competitiveness through expansion or concentration

Rising claims on digestive and eye health

Market Share

More centralised market

Figure 15: Leading companies' value share in IMF market, China, 2017-18

Leading players win with big sale items

Brands perform well on ecommerce platforms

Figure 16: Top 10 IMF brands on domestic ecommerce platforms* (based on value sales), China, 2018

Figure 17: Top 10 IMF brands on cross-border ecommerce platforms* (based on value sales), China, 2018

Competitive Strategies

Branching out to other categories

100% goat becomes selling point

Figure 18: Goat IMF products claiming to use goat whey only

Distribution channel focusing on expansion

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300



Report Price: £3302.97 | \$4460.00 | €3717.16

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Who's Innovating?

Additional benefits and fortified nutrition as highlighted claims

Figure 19: Select claims of IMF products, China, 2016-18

Figure 20: New IMF products with fortified nutrition or additional benefits, global, 2019

Figure 21: Junlebao's Lebo K2 growing-up milk formula for children

Product innovation to watch

Figure 22: Banner Dairy IMF stage 1 with milking date shown at can bottom

Figure 23: Wyeth illuma's HA partially hydrolysed whey formula

Figure 24: Treasure of Plateau yak milk infant formula, China

The Consumer - What You Need to Know

High interest in more fortified nutrition

Quality and suitability high priorities

Yearning for special formula and premium sectors

Brand Purchased

International brands enjoy competitive edge in South and East regions

Figure 25: Infant milk formula brand bought, December 2018

Figure 26: Infant milk formula brand bought, by region, December 2018

Domestic brands are winning younger parents

Figure 27: Infant milk formula brand bought, by age, December 2018

Danone gains the most loyalty

Figure 28: Number of brands consumed by users of different brands, December 2018

Figure 29: Tips on changing IMF brands

Attitudes towards Fortified Nutrition

Longer list of fortified nutrition is preferred

Figure 30: Attitudes towards fortified nutrition, December 2018

More education and income further drives demand

Figure 31: Percentage with "the more, the better" attitude, by education, December 2018

HMO and casein have potential to prevail

Purchase Factors Ranking

Calling for more targeted formula

Figure 32: Purchase factors ranking, December 2018

Post-1980s still obsessed with milk source

Figure 33: First priority of choosing infant milk formula, by generation, December 2018

Interest in Specific Infant Milk Formula

Premium IMF highly coveted

Figure 34: Usage and interest in specific infant milk formula, December 2018

Opportunity in formula transition to win over special-formula buyers

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300



Report Price: £3302.97 | \$4460.00 | €3717.16

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 35: Number of brands consumed, by users of special formula, December 2018

Education on special formula required for older parents and lower tier markets

Figure 36: Percentage of unaware of certain special formula, by age, December 2018

Figure 37: Percentage of consumers having bought or interested in buying certain special formula, by city tier, December 2018

Most Trustworthy Information Source

Value experience and authority

Figure 38: Most trustworthy information source, December 2018

Figure 39: Most trustworthy information source, by household income, December 2018

Polarised opinions on celebrity endorsements

Attitudes towards Infant Milk Formula

Breast feeding undervalued

Figure 40: Attitudes towards breastfeeding, December 2018

Local versions and official sales channels gain popularity

Figure 41: Attitudes towards imported infant milk formula, December 2018

Figure 42: Attitudes towards channels, by attitudes towards imported IMF, December 2018

Meet the Mintropolitans

Not necessarily pioneers of latest baby feeding concepts

More interested in special formula, liquid and capsule IMF

Figure 43: Percentage of haven't bought but have interest to buy, by consumer classification, December 2018

Authority earns more credit

Figure 44: Most trustworthy information source, by consumer classification, December 2018

Appendix - Market Size and Forecast

Figure 45: Total market volume of IMF, China, 2013-23

Figure 46: Total market value of IMF, China, 2013-23

Appendix - Methodology and Abbreviations

Methodology

Fan chart forecast

Abbreviations