

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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



"Consumers are paying more attention to their health due to a rising level of awareness regarding the poor nutritional state of our nation. The cookie market, therefore, finds itself in a risky position; cookies, even socalled healthy cookies, are not exactly known to be a healthy part of consumers' diet."

- John N. Frank, Category Manager, Food and Drink

# In this report we answer the key questions:

- Are healthy cookies really healthy?
- · What are consumers looking for when leaving room for indulgences?
- When marketing health attributes of cookies, how far is too far?

U.S. sales of cookies and cookie bars represent a \$7 billion market and sales are gaining momentum. This report provides an in-depth look at sales trends, product segmentation, distribution channels, leading companies and consumer behaviors. Readers of this report will gain an understanding of what factors are shaping the cookie and cookie bar market today along with insight into marketing strategies aimed at future opportunities. A sampling of questions raised and answered includes:

- Cookie sales have increased steadily following the recession. What factors will play a role in future sales?
- Standard cookies, led by household brands such as OREO, dominate the market and continue to show sales growth. How do the major brands continue to expand?
- Healthier cookie varieties are one of the fastest growing segments. How has an "unhealthy" product like cookies benefited from increased health awareness?
- The leading cookie manufacturers control the majority of the market. What product innovations and marketing strategies are they implementing?
- Cookies are eaten by four out of five consumers and are likely to be eaten as an occasional treat. How can marketers expand the variety of eating occasions?
- Nearly half of consumers keep a mostly healthy diet. How do cookie indulgences fit into the lifestyle
  of a more health-conscious consumer?
- Taste is a dominant reason why consumers eat cookies. What innovations in new products and tastes are consumers looking for?
- Value plays an important role in cookie sales. How can promotional pricing or private label products be customized to provide the most benefit?

BUY THIS REPORT NOW

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533

> Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250

+61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: oxygen@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: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

### **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

# Cookie market surpasses \$7 billion with second consecutive growth year

Figure 1: Total U.S. retail sales of market, at current prices, 2007-12

## Cookie market forecast to grow to \$8.3 billion in 2017

Figure 2: Total U.S. retail sales and fan chart of cookie and cookie bars market, at current prices, 2007-17

Figure 3: Sales of cookies and cookie bars, segmented by type, 2010 and 2012

## Market factors

Figure 4: Sales of market, by channel, 2010 and 2012

Figure 5: MULO sales of cookies, by leading companies, rolling 52 weeks 2012

## The Consumer

Figure 6: Cookie and cookie bar consumption, by gender, December 2012

# Nearly half of respondents keep a mostly healthy diet

Figure 7: Buying attitudes toward cookies, by household income, December 2012

Figure 8: Attitudes toward cookies and cookie bars, December 2012

Figure 9: Attitudes toward cookies and cookie bars, December 2012

Figure 10: Shopping behavior, by gender, December 2012

# Branding is a powerful force in cookie market

Private label cookie buyers looking for more options

What we think

## Issues in the Market

Are healthy cookies really healthy?

What are consumers looking for when leaving room for indulgences?

When marketing health attributes of cookies, how far is too far?

# Insights and Opportunities

Daddy bloggers surprising counterparts to mommy bloggers

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

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



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

Smart coupons viable for supermarkets

Cookies for grown-ups provide niche market

**Trend Applications** 

Trend: Premiumization and Indulgence

Trend: Extend My Brand
Future Trend: Generation Next

Market Size and Forecast

Key points

Cookie market surpasses \$7 billion with second consecutive growth year

Figure 11: Total U.S. retail sales and forecast of market, at current prices, 2007-17

Figure 12: Total U.S. retail sales and forecast of market, at inflation-adjusted prices, 2007-17

Fan chart forecast

Figure 13: Total Market sales and fan chart forecast of market, at current prices, 2005-15

Market Drivers

Key points

Discretionary spending under pressure as payroll tax rises

Figure 14: University of Michigan's index of consumer sentiment (ICS), 2007-13

Obesity rates related to shift toward healthier food options

Surge in Hispanic population impacts market

Figure 15: Population by race and Hispanic origin, 2008, 2013, and 2018

Rising food prices would lessen cookie demand

Aging population indicates changing cookie tastes

Figure 16: Population, by age, 2007-17

Figure 17: Households, by presence of own children, 2002-12

Competitive Context

Other snack foods often used to provide indulgence

Energy bars and other nutritional snacks growing quickly

Cereal and snack bars not just for breakfast

Girl Scout Cookies would rank third largest company in sales

Baking at home popular due to perceptions of better taste

Segment Performance

Key points

Standard cookies account for more than half of overall market

Healthy cookies now second-best selling branded segment

Private label sales stagnant, indicating lost opportunity

Figure 18: Sales of cookies and cookie bars, segmented by type, 2010 and 2012

Segment Performance - Standard Cookies

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

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

FMAII · oxyden@mintel.com



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

Key points

Sales of standard cookies reach nearly \$4 billion

Figure 19: Sales and forecast of standard cookies, at current prices, 2007-17

Segment Performance – Healthy Cookies

Key points

Healthy cookie sales rise nearly 20% since 2010, now more than \$900 million

Figure 20: Sales and forecast of healthy cookies, at current prices, 2007-17

Segment Performance – Premium Cookies

Key points

Premium cookies continue steady decline

Opportunity to market premium cookies as another healthy alternative

Figure 21: Sales and forecast of premium cookies, at current prices, 2007-17

Segment Performance - Cookie Bars

Key points

Cookie bar sales grow nearly 20% with introduction of healthier products

Figure 22: Sales and forecast of cookie bars, at current prices, 2007-17

Segment Performance – Private Label Cookies

Key points

Private label cookie sales slowed considerably following recession

Figure 23: Sales and forecast of private label cookies, at current prices, 2007-17

Retail Channels

Key points

Majority of cookies sold in supermarkets yet share declining slightly

Figure 24: Sales of market, by channel, 2010 and 2012

Retail Channels - Supermarkets

Key points

Cookie sales growth at supermarkets relatively flat

Figure 25: Supermarket sales of cookies and cookie bars, at current prices, 2007-12

Retail Channels - Drug stores

Key points

Cookie bars might provide drug store opportunity

Figure 26: Drug store sales of cookies and cookie bars, at current prices, 2007-12

Retail Channels - Other Stores

Key points

Other store sales of cookies pass \$3 billion, 20% increase since 2007

Figure 27: Other store sales of cookies and cookie bars, at current prices, 2007-12

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

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



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

## Leading Companies

Key points

Kraft Foods (now Mondelez) expands upon its market dominance

Figure 28: MULO sales of cookies, by leading companies, rolling 52-weeks 2011 and 2012

Brand Share - Standard Cookies

Key points

OREO's 100th Birthday push helps Kraft Foods continue segment dominance

Figure 29: MULO sales of standard cookies, by leading companies, rolling 52-weeks 2011 and 2012

Brand Share - Healthy Cookies

Key points

Newtons brand succeeds for Kraft Foods in Healthy Cookie segment

Figure 30: MULO sales of healthy cookies, by leading companies, rolling 52-weeks 2011 and 2012

Brand Share - Premium Cookies

Key points

Despite sales decline, Pepperidge controls segment

Figure 31: MULO sales of premium cookies, by leading companies, rolling 52-weeks 2011 and 2012

Brand Share - Cookie Bars

Key points

Cookie bars fastest growing segment

Figure 32: MULO sales of cookie bars, by leading companies, rolling 52-weeks 2011 and 2012

Innovations and Innovators

Limited time and seasonal offerings strengthen brand presence

Standard Cookies

Healthy Cookies

Premium Cookies

Cookie Bars

Private Label

Marketing Strategies

OREO's 100th birthday celebrated with multifaceted campaign

Figure 33: OREO "Daily Twist" campaign ad examples, 2012

"Celebrate the Kid Inside" TV ad celebrates OREO's 100th birthday

Figure 34: OREO, television ad, 2012

OREO television ad leads viewer to Instagram as part of integrated approach

Figure 35: OREO, television ad, 2013

Mr. Christie's spot personifies blueberry to showcase real fruit

Figure 36: Mr. Christie's, television ad, 2013

Little Debbie reminds consumers to smile

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

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



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

Figure 37: Little Debbie, television ad, 2013

# Girl Scout Cookie ad might remind brands the power of engaging with community

Figure 38: Girl Scout Cookies, television ad, 2013

#### Social Media - Cookies and Cookie Bars

# Key points

#### Key social media metrics

Figure 39: Key brand metrics, cookies and cookie bar brands, February 2013

#### Market overview

#### Brand usage and awareness

Figure 40: Usage and awareness of selected cookies and cookie bar brands, January 2013

#### Interaction with brands

Figure 41: Interaction with selected cookies and cookie bar brands, January 2013

#### Online conversations

Figure 42: Percentage of consumer conversation by selected cookies and cookie bar brands, by tier, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013

Figure 43: Online mentions, selected cookies and cookie bar brands, by day, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013

# Where are people talking about cookies and cookie bar brands?

Figure 44: Mentions by page type, selected cookies and cookie bar brands, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013

# What are people talking about?

Figure 45: Mentions by type of conversation, selected cookies and cookie bar brands, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013

Figure 46: Major areas of discussion surrounding cookies and cookie bar brands, by day, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013

Figure 47: Major areas of discussion surrounding cookies and cookie bar brands, by page type, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013

# Brand analysis

## OREO

Figure 48: OREO key social media metrics, February 2013

# Key online campaigns

## What we think

# Keebler

Figure 49: Keebler key social media metrics, February 2013

## Key online campaigns

# What we think

# Chips Ahoy!

Figure 50: Chips Ahoy! key social media metrics, February 2013

# Key online campaigns

## What we think

## Pepperidge Farm

Figure 51: Pepperidge Farm key social media metrics, February 2013

# Key online campaigns

## What we think

Nilla Wafers



VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

Figure 52: Nilla Wafers key social media metrics, February 2013

Key online campaigns

What we think

SnackWell's

Figure 53: SnackWell's key social media metrics, February 2013

Key online campaigns

What we think

Nonni's Biscotti

Figure 54: Nonni's Biscotti key social media metrics, February 2013

Key online campaigns

What we think

Cookie and Cookie Bar Consumption and Frequency

Key points

Sandwich most popular variety, bite-sized and fruit-filled growing

Figure 55: Household usage of cookies, by type, July 2007-August 2012

Nabisco is most popular brand, more affluent households over index

Figure 56: Household usage of cookies, by brands, by household income, August 2011-August 2012

Nabisco holds strong position among families

Figure 57: Household usage of cookies, by brands, by presence of children in household, August 2011-August 2012

Teens eat cookies most frequently

Figure 58: Household frequency usage of cookies in the past 30 days, by age, August 2011-August 2012

Men more likely to eat healthy cookies

Figure 59: Cookie and cookie bar consumption, by gender, December 2012

**Eating Occasions** 

Key points

Women eating cookies after meals

Figure 60: Eating occasions for cookies and cookie bars, by gender, December 2012

Young consumers eat cookies when bored

Figure 61: Eating occasions for cookies and cookie bars, by age, December 2012  $\,$ 

Parents serving cookies when they host

Figure 62: Eating occasions for cookies and cookie bars, by presence of children in household, December 2012

Eating and Baking Habits

Key points

Near-majority of respondents keep a mostly healthy diet

Figure 63: Eating habits, by gender, December 2012

More affluent consumers may be interested in natural ingredients

Figure 64: Eating habits, by household income, December 2012

Premium brands attractive to health-conscious consumers

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

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



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

Figure 65: Eating habits, by cookie and cookie bar, December 2012

## One-third of respondents bake cookies at home

Figure 66: Eating habits, by gender, December 2012

# Attitudes toward Cookies and Cookie Bars

# Key points

# Taste is dominant reason why respondents eat cookies

Figure 67: Attitudes toward cookies and cookie bars, December 2012

#### Less affluent households don't think healthy cookies worth the cost

Figure 68: Buying attitudes toward cookies, by household income, December 2012

## Parents both budget-minded and understanding of certain costs

Figure 69: Buying attitudes toward cookies, by presence of children in household, December 2012

#### Young consumers want sugar, less interested in healthier options

Figure 70: Attitudes toward cookies, by age, December 2012

#### Parents buying healthier options despite disliking the taste

Figure 71: Attitudes toward cookies, by presence of children in household, December 2012

# Shopping Habits and Behaviors

# Key points

# Parents more likely to read nutritional labels

Figure 72: Nutritional label reading habits, by cookies and cookie bars, December 2012

# Coupons and sale price cookies appeal to women

Figure 73: Shopping behavior, by gender, December 2012

# Brand names hold influence over cookie buyers

Figure 74: Brand buying habits, by age, December 2012

## Private label cookies appeal to consumers looking for value

Figure 75: Brand buying habits, by household income, December 2012

# Private label cookie buyers looking for more options

Figure 76: Attitudes toward cookies and cookie bars, by shopping habits and behaviors, December 2012

# Health-related Attributes

## Key points

# Opportunity for marketing healthy cookies, natural ingredients

Figure 77: Health-related attributes that characterize products purchased, by age, December 2012

# Less affluent consumers buying low-fat, low-sugar cookies

Figure 78: Health-related attributes that characterize cookies purchased, by household income, December 2012

# Impact of Race and Hispanic Origin

## Kev points

## Hispanics over index cookie consumption

Figure 79: Cookie and cookie bar consumption, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2012

# Hispanics sensitive to quality and nutrition

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

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



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

Figure 80: Buying attitudes toward cookies, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2012

## Hispanics most likely group to use private labels

Figure 81: Brand buying habits, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2012

#### Hispanics over index purchase of nearly all health-related attributes

Figure 82: Health-related attributes that characterize products purchased, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2012

# Cluster Analysis

Cluster 1: Afterthoughts

Demographics

Characteristics

Opportunity

Cluster 2: Cookie Connoisseurs

Demographics

Characteristics

Opportunity

Cluster 3: Traditionalists

Demographics

Characteristics

Opportunity

## Cluster characteristic tables

Figure 83: Target clusters, December 2012

Figure 84: Cookie and cookie bar consumption, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 85: User groups of cookie and cookie bar consumption, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 86: Eating occasions for cookies and cookie bars, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 87: Eating habits, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 88: Baking habits, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 89: Buying attitudes toward cookies, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 90: Attitudes toward cookies, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 91: Interest in new cookies products, by target clusters, December 2012  $\,$ 

Figure 92: Nutritional label reading habits, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 93: Shopping behavior, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 94: Brand buying habits, by target clusters, December 2012

Figure 95: Health-related attributes that characterize products purchased, by target clusters, December 2012

# Cluster demographic tables

Figure 96: Target clusters, by demographic, December 2012

# Cluster methodology

IRI/Builders - Key Household Purchase Measures

# Consumer insights on key purchase measures—cookies

# Brand map

Figure 97: Brand map, selected brands of cookies buying rate, by household penetration, 2012\*

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

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



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

#### Brand leader characteristics

## Key purchase measures

Figure 98: Key purchase measures for the top brands of cookies, by household penetration, 2012\*

#### Appendix: Other Useful Consumer Tables

## Household usage of cookies and age

Figure 99: Household usage of cookies, by brands, by age, August 2011-August 2012

## Cookie consumption and age

Figure 100: Cookie and cookie bar consumption, by age, December 2012

# Cookie consumption and presence of children in household

Figure 101: Cookie and cookie bar consumption, by presence of children in household, December 2012

## Interest in new cookie products and age

Figure 102: Interest in new cookies products, by age, December 2012

Figure 103: Household frequency usage of cookies in the past 30 days, by race/Hispanic origin, August 2011-August 2012

### Appendix: Market Drivers

#### Consumer confidence

Figure 104: University of Michigan's index of consumer sentiment (ICS), 2007-13

#### Food cost pressures

Figure 105: Changes in USDA Food Price Indexes, 2010 through 2013

# Obesity

Figure 106: U.S. Obesity, by age group, 2008 and 2012

# Appendix: Social Media – Cookies and Cookie Bars

# Brand usage or awareness

Figure 107: Brand usage or awareness, January 2013

Figure 108: OREO usage or awareness, by demographics, January 2013

Figure 109: Chips Ahoy! usage or awareness, by demographics, January 2013

Figure 110: Keebler usage or awareness, by demographics, January 2013

Figure 111: Nilla Wafers usage or awareness, by demographics, January 2013

Figure 112: SnackWell's usage or awareness, by demographics, January 2013

Figure 113: Pepperidge farm usage or awareness, by demographics, January 2013

Figure 114: Nonni's Biscotti usage or awareness, by demographics, January 2013

## Activities done

Figure 115: Activities done, January 2013

Figure 116: OREO—Activities done by demographics, January 2013

Figure 117: Chips Ahoy!—Activities done by demographics, January 2013

Figure 118: Keebler—Activities done by demographics, January 2013

Figure 119: Nilla Wafers—Activities done by demographics, January 2013

Figure 120: SnackWell's—Activities done by demographics, January 2013

Figure 121: Pepperidge farm—activities done by demographics, January 2013



VISIT: store.mintel.com

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

FMAII: oxygen@mintel.com



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

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

Figure 122: Nonni's Biscotti-Activities done by demographics, January 2013

## Online conversations

- Figure 123: Percentage of consumer conversation by selected cookies and cookie bar brands, Tier 1 brands, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013
- Figure 124: Percentage of consumer conversation by selected cookies and cookie bar brands, Tier 2 brands, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25,
- 2013
  Figure 125: Online mentions, selected cookies and cookie bar brands, by day, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013
- Figure 126: Mentions by page type, selected cookies and cookie bar brands, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013
- Figure 127: Mentions by type of conversation, selected cookies and cookie bar brands, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013
- Figure 128: Major areas of discussion surrounding cookies and cookie bar brands, by day, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013
- Figure 129: Major areas of discussion surrounding cookies and cookie bar brands, by page type, Jan. 26, 2013-Feb. 25, 2013
- Figure 130: Prevalence of obesity among children and adolescents aged 2-19, 1971-2010
- Figure 131: Population by race and Hispanic origin, 2008, 2013, and 2018
- Figure 132: Households with children, by race and Hispanic origin of householder, 2012
- Figure 133: Population, by age, 2006-16
- Figure 134: Households, by presence of own children, 2002-12

#### Unemployment

- Figure 135: U.S. Unemployment rate, by month, 2002-13
- Figure 136: U.S. Unemployment and under-employment rates, 2007-13
- Figure 137: Number of employed civilians in U.S., in thousands, 2007-13

Appendix: Symphonyl RI Builders Panel Data Definitions

SymphonyIRI Consumer Network Metrics

Appendix: Trade Associations