## Pizza and Pasta Restaurants - UK - November 2015


"Discounting continues to be a double-edged sword for this market. Whilst it remains a key venue differentiator, the expectation of promotions is hindering players' ability to capitalise on the improving economic climate. The cutprice image sees consumers look to more exciting eating out options."

- Helena Childe, Senior Foodservice Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- Scope for fast casual pizza formats to shake up the category
- Technological advances could help operators engage core youth market
- Pizza/ pasta venues can draw on healthy eating trends to drive growth

Growth in the pizza/pasta restaurant/takeaway sector has been sluggish. Whilst the takeaway/home delivery sector has seen robust growth thanks to consumers' continuing demand for convenience, growth in the dine-in sector has largely been inflation-driven.

Frequency of eating at these venues has declined in the last year. The long-running heavy discounting in the market has seen diners seek to trade up as they become less focused on price and more on exciting dining experiences.

Greater segmentation could help to shake up the category and revive growth by targeting meal occasions and consumer types more specifically, such as through US-inspired fast casual formats.

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