

Report Price: £2463.80 | \$3990.00 | €3129.79

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



"Geographical expansion will be the big issue for foreign companies to achieve sales growth. The lessons from Hershey's acquisition of Shanghai Golden Monkey will lead foreign players to be cautious when acquiring Chinese companies for their local distribution power. Enhancing the health image of chocolate is critical for the category's growth."

Karen Liu, Senior Research Analyst

# This report looks at the following areas:

- Lessons from Hershey The risk of expansion
- · Is healthy chocolate an opportunity?
- Seek growth by product extension

#### What you need to know

Volume sales of chocolate have declined since 2015 and value sales are estimated to have declined over 2015-16. Increasing prices are driving consumers away from eating chocolate and have caused the market to decline.

Foreign companies are quite competitive in chocolate category due to chocolate's strong image association with being foreign goods. Geographic expansion is the big issue for sales growth for foreign companies. The lessons from Hershey's acquisition of Shanghai Golden Monkey will lead foreign players to be cautious when acquiring Chinese companies for their local distribution power.

# BUY THIS REPORT NOW

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533

> Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250

+86 (21) 6032 7300

+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: £2463.80 | \$3990.00 | €3129.79

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

#### **Executive Summary**

The market

Figure 1: Total China chocolate market retail value, 2011-21

Key players

Figure 2: Value share of top 10 companies, 2014-15

The consumer

Chocolate gains high penetration but low depth of usage

Figure 3: Usage frequency of chocolate, January 2016

Dark chocolate is not outstanding for health benefits

Figure 4: Perceptions of chocolate, January 2016

Weight gain is the biggest concern

Figure 5: Barriers to having more chocolate, January 2016

Chocolate origin and health benefits are premium selling points

Figure 6: Opportunity for premiumisation, January 2016

Chocolates have opportunity to tap into other categories

Figure 7: Attitudes towards product extension, January 2016

Price is not the key consideration factor for online purchases – brand is

Figure 8: Online purchase behaviour, January 2016

What we think

# Issues and Insights

Lessons from Hershey – The risk of expansion

The facts

The implications

Is healthy chocolate an opportunity?

The facts

The implications

Seek growth by product extension

The facts

The implications

Figure 9: Food with chocolate flavour, China and global, 2011-15\*

The Market - What You Need to Know

Chocolate market volume sales fall in 2015

Increasing price of chocolate drives consumers away



VISIT: store.mintel.com

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

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100 EMAIL: reports@mintel.com



Report Price: £2463.80 | \$3990.00 | €3129.79

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

## Gifting market decreases, while opportunity exists in daily consumption

#### Market Size and Forecast

#### Chocolate market volume sales fall in 2015

Figure 10: Retail market size of chocolate in China, 2011-16

## Market is forecast to grow at a CAGR of 3.3%

Figure 11: Total China chocolate market retail value, 2011-21

Figure 12: Total China chocolate market retail volume, 2011-21

#### Market Drivers and Challenges

## Increasing disposable income assists growth

Figure 13: Per capita disposable income, China, 2010-14

## Increasing cocoa price

Figure 14: Average price of cocoa, 2005-16

Figure 15: Average price of chocolate and sugar confectionery (RMB/kg), China, 2009-14

# High calorie levels drive consumers away from chocolate

#### Festivals influence chocolate consumption

## Market Segmentation

## Gifting market decreases

Figure 16: Retail value of other forms of chocolates, 2011-21\*

## Growth opportunity exists in encouraging daily consumption

Figure 17: Retail value of tablet chocolate, 2011-21

Figure 18: Retail value of countlines, 2011-21

# Key Players – What You Need to Know

## Chocolate market is quite consolidated

Hershey loses 1.1% market share and Ferrero opens first plant in China

Manufacturers want to enhance health image of chocolate

Chocolate brands tap into adjacent categories in other countries

## Market Share

# Chocolate market in China is quite consolidated

Figure 19: Value share of top 10 companies, 2014-15

# Le Conte exits the market

Hershey loses 1.1% market share

# Competitive Strategies

# Mars promotes impressive advertisements

### Ferrero opens first plant in China

# Fruit-filled chocolate enhances healthy image

Figure 20: Hershey fruit-filled chocolate, China, 2015

Figure 21: Dove fruit-filled chocolate, China, 2015



VISIT: store.mintel.com

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

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100 | EMAIL: reports@mintel.com



Report Price: £2463.80 | \$3990.00 | €3129.79

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

## Who's Innovating?

#### The market is lacking in product innovation

Figure 22: Newly launched chocolate, by launch type, 2013-15

## Healthy chocolates

#### Chocolate with 'minus' claim

Figure 23: Chocolate with low/no/reduced sugar, global, 2015

Figure 24: Chocolate with low/no/reduced fat, global, 2015

#### Chocolate with additional health benefits

Figure 25: Chocolate with low/no/reduced fat, global, 2015

## Chocolate leveraging other healthy food ingredients

Figure 26: Chocolate with healthy food, global, 2015

#### Chocolate married with other categories

Figure 27: Chocolate flavoured food (new launches), China and global, 2011-15

Figure 28: Examples of Mars brand extension, UK, 2015

### Snickers launches 'Hungerithm' campaign in Australia

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

Dark chocolate, milk chocolate and chocolate with fruit bits/nuts are most popular types

High calorie content is the biggest concern hindering growth

Chocolates have opportunity to tap into other categories

Consumers are conservative when purchasing chocolate online

Brand is a key consideration factor for online purchasing

# The Consumer – Usage Frequency of Chocolate

# Chocolate gains high penetration but low depth of usage

Figure 29: Usage frequency of chocolate, January 2016

# Dark chocolate, milk chocolate and chocolate with fruit bits/nuts are most popular types

Figure 30: Usage frequency of chocolate (continued), January 2016

# White chocolate is gaining popularity

Figure 31: Rank of popular chocolate types, 2015-16

# 25-39-year-olds and high earners are core consumers

Figure 32: % of those eat chocolate once a week or more, by age and income, January 2016

## The Consumer – Perceptions of Chocolate

# Plain chocolate for energy boost, chocolate with added ingredients for snacking

Figure 33: Perceptions towards chocolate, January 2016

Milk chocolate is widely available

The health benefits of dark chocolate are not well appreciated

Chocolate with bits and fillings are premium for gifting

The Consumer – Barriers to Having More Chocolate

Weight gain is the biggest concern



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



Report Price: £2463.80 | \$3990.00 | €3129.79

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

Figure 34: Barriers to have more chocolate, January 2016

Figure 35: Top 5 'minus' claim among newly launched chocolate, global, 2011-15

Figure 36: Kit Kat on-pack low-calorie claim, Australia, 2016

Consumers are satisfied with the flavour of chocolate

High price hinders growth

The Consumer – Opportunity for Premiumisation

Origin is key for premiumisation

Figure 37: Opportunities for premiumisation, January 2016

Health is another selling point

Interest in 'handmade' is increasing

Flavour innovation stays niche

The Consumer – Attitudes towards Chocolate

Imported chocolates do not offer superior health benefits

Figure 38: Attitudes towards imported chocolate, January 2016

Figure 39: Usage frequency of chocolate, by souvenir purchase behaviour, January 2016

Chocolates from boutiques are premium

Figure 40: Attitudes towards chocolate from boutiques, by boutique purchase behaviour, January 2016

Chocolates have opportunity to tap into other categories

Figure 41: Attitudes towards product extension, January 2016

The Consumer - Online Purchase Behaviour

Price is not the key consideration factor for online purchases

Figure 42: Purchasing chocolate from online, by demographics, January 2016

Figure 43: Online purchase behaviour, January 2016

Old and low-income consumers are conservative, young and high earners are willing to explore

Figure 44: Online purchase behaviour (continued), January 2016

Figure 45: Online purchase behaviour (continued), by gender, age and income, January 2016

Brand is an important consideration factor

Figure 46: Online purchase behaviour (continued), January 2016

New brands still have opportunity to attract consumers on shopping websites

Figure 47: Online purchase behaviour (continued), January 2016

The Consumer – Meet the Mintropolitans

Mintropolitans eat chocolate as treats

Figure 48: Perceptions towards chocolate, by consumer classification, January 2016

Exquisitely-made chocolates generate premium perceptions amongst Mintropolitans

Figure 49: Opportunity for premiumisation, by consumer classification, January 2016

Mintropolitans buy premium chocolate online

Figure 50: Online purchase behaviour, by consumer classification, January 2016

Appendix - Market Size and Forecast



VISIT: store.mintel.con

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

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: reports@mintel.com



Report Price: £2463.80 | \$3990.00 | €3129.79

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

Figure 51: China chocolate market, value and volume, 2011-21

### Appendix - Market Segmentation

Figure 52: Retail value of chocolate tablets, 2011-21

Figure 53: Retail value of other chocolate, 2011-21

Figure 54: Retail value of chocolate countlines, 2011-21

Figure 55: Retail value of individually wrapped chocolates, 2011-21

Figure 56: Retail value of non-individually wrapped chocolates, 2011-21

Figure 57: Retail volume of chocolate tablets, 2011-21

Figure 58: Retail volume of other chocolate, 2011-21

Figure 59: Retail volume of chocolate countlines, 2011-21

Figure 60: Retail volume of individually wrapped chocolates, 2011-21

Figure 61: Retail volume of non-individually wrapped chocolates, 2011-21

## Appendix – Methodology and Abbreviations

## Methodology

Fan chart forecast

Mintropolitans

Why Mintropolitans?

## Who are they?

Figure 62: Demographic profile of Mintropolitans vs Non-Mintropolitans, by gender, age and personal income

Figure 63: Demographic profile of Mintropolitans vs Non-Mintropolitans, by marital status, city tier and education level

# Abbreviations

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100 | EMAIL: reports@mintel.com