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"Given the essential nature of groceries, the industry remains somewhat protected from outside influencers that can cause wide variances in sales." Diana Smith, Associate Director - Retail \& Apparel

This report looks at the following areas:

- Food deflation has dampened sales but brighter outlook expected
- Online marketplace has yet to take off
- Price wars contribute to channel-shifting

However, food deflation has put a damper on sales and squeezed profits the past two years, causing some price wars. Channel switching is frequent in the industry, as consumers shop around for the lowest prices and/or look to fulfill all their needs. Common areas of strategic focus include improvements to produce and other fresh products, an increased emphasis on private label brands, investments in e-commerce and how to evolve into a lifestyle brand rather than merely a place to conduct transactions.

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## Grocery Retailing - US - November 2017

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