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## This report looks at the following areas:

- Purchasing habits by age and parental status
- Purchase patterns and interest of nut-based and sweet spreads packaging types
- Consumer perceptions of nut-based and sweet spreads
- Opportunities for expanded usage occasions
- Features sought in nut-based and sweet spreads

While consumers are more likely to view both nut-based and sweet spreads as healthy rather than indulgent, the majority of consumers view nut-based and sweet spreads as health neutral. This is great news for brands, as they can serve both healthy and indulgent occasions with a singular product or portfolio. The expansion of occasions and uses will be the key to growth for the market, making this point particularly salient for marketing messaging and branding efforts.

This is a mature market on the move, and there are shifts happening. To leverage an already dedicated base and forge stronger ties with new ones, brands can enhance engagement with consumers through extended applications and dayparts. There is room to grow usage of nut-based and sweet spreads despite their strong associations with breakfast and sandwich applications. With younger consumers most likely to explore different products in this market and to use spreads for a variety of applications, brands will benefit from focusing expansive efforts on these consumers. Staples, however, will need to remain central to brands as tradition and familiarity continue to appeal to the top consumer of peanut butter, the 55+ age group, and are popular with the widest consumer base.

Peanut butter remains the strong leader in the market, but hazelnut spreads have seen success in recent years. With consumption driven by parents, hazelnut spreads were more likely to have been purchased than almond butter. Consumers are looking for spreads that enhance foods by providing a taste



"While tradition runs strong in the nut-based and sweet spreads market, there is opportunity for growth through expanded uses and occasions past the breakfast occasion and bread application."

Kelsey Olsen, Consumer
 Insights Analyst

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experience that appeals to a variety of ages. Position spreads as versatile inclusions to the consumption occasion, as ingredients that can make up a simple snack and also be a part of a more complex recipe.

Rising prices will impact purchasing habits in the category, hampering consumers' purchasing power of super-premium products, specifically nut spreads that retail at higher price points. For the majority of spreads, though, inflation may bring good news as consumers keep staples in their carts and even trade down to spreads from more expensive products.

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