

This report looks at the following areas:

- Consumers are not at all unfamiliar with frozen breakfast foods, with a market penetration of 80%, yet there is considerable room to grow their repertoires.
- Amid higher prices, value is a clear driver to consumers, but there are multiple routes to convey that concept, including versatility.
- Much like breakfast overall, nutritional innovation in frozen breakfast foods should be incremental, and brands should not expect consumers to make wholesale lifestyle changes.
- Differentiating frozen breakfast foods from key competitors would give the category a distinct positioning but also help diversify its usage occasions and open it up to other dayparts.
- Quality improvements could help frozen breakfast foods penetrate the weekend morning meal occasion, which has more or less been focused on more leisurely, deliberate preparation methods.
- Restaurant inspiration can further category usage among younger "foodie" generations.

Frozen breakfast foods enjoy a considerable portion of consumer share, with eight in 10 having eaten the products in the past month. Yet, engagement by segment is notably shy of that height, with frozen waffles the only one that breaks 33%. However, bundling deals could not only increase consumer awareness and usage of different category offerings but also appeal to people seeking to stretch their food dollars in an era of higher prices all around.

Those inflationary pressures have impacted the category's performance over the past year, but in a positive way. As a frequently less-expensive option to dining out, frozen breakfast foods are seen as a relatively cost-effective approach to a quick breakfast, especially as more work-from-home routines have managed to keep breakfast at home as well. Indeed, category sales have outpaced inflation over the past two years. The category has grown 22%



"Sales of frozen breakfast foods actually outpaced the considerable rates of inflation over the past year and continue to improve upon the sizable increases seen in the pandemic-fueled increase of 2020."

Billy Roberts, Sr. Analyst –
 Food and Drink

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in that time, even on top of the dramatic growth seen in 2020. However, as inflation abates and consumer discretionary spending again finds room for dining out, frozen breakfast foods will need to establish a role beyond simple convenience to remain in the consideration set for consumers.

Improvements in health and perceptions of quality would help set frozen breakfast food brands apart from competitors. Yet, particularly when it comes to health, brands should note that consumer interest is more geared toward small, incremental improvements, rather than wholesale behavior changes.

At the same time, with people keen on breakfast for other meals, there appears to be an opportunity for frozen breakfast to potentially penetrate not only other dayparts but even snacking occasions with heartier, quickly prepared fare.

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