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This report looks at the following areas:

- How the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the chocolate category
- The impacts of COVID-19 on consumer behavior and chocolate consumption
- Chocolate consumption: types, frequency and consumption occasions
- Purchase venues and reasons to buy chocolate in chocolate shops

Mintel forecasts that Brazil's chocolate market will contract 5.7% in value and 6.8% in volume in 2020 compared to the previous year. The figures reflect the consumption changes occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of social isolation on seasonal products, especially at Easter, and the reduction of purchasing power due to the economic recession. According to the IBGE, the number of unemployed people in Brazil reached 12.7 million in the second quarter of 2020. The sum, however, may be higher, since the methodology does not include those who are not actively looking for work, perhaps because they worry about being exposed to the coronavirus or because they are receiving the emergency aid.

After the pandemic, financial difficulties should drive consumers toward more affordable products. On the other hand, consumers with a better financial condition will look for premium chocolates that provide health benefits.

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"In terms of chocolate consumption, the COVID-19 pandemic has encouraged conflicting behaviors. While some consumers have eaten more chocolate due to its positive effects on mental health, others have reduced consumption to avoid its negative impacts on physical health (eg weight gain)." - Laura Menegon, Food and Drinks Analyst

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