Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

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

### This report looks at the following areas:

- Attitudes towards health and healthy eating
- Purchase considerations in food and drinks
- Trust in authority during the purchasing journey
- Purchase channel preferences for food and drinks

Although lower tier city consumers have similar attitudes to those in Tier 1 cities towards the importance of a healthy lifestyle, they are not as proactive in pursuing it and are more concerned about potentially having to compromise on taste. Brands need to be more active and persistent in nudging them into new behaviours. Instead of sophisticated or trendy concepts, lower tier city consumers are more responsive to simple, direct and clear visual clues that convey health messages. Their trust in products depends on the information source rather than the quality of the information itself.

Through quantitative (based on the quantitative data from multiple Mintel Reports from 2018 to 2020) and qualitative research, this Report compares consumer behaviour and attitudes in different city tiers. This Report examines lower tier city consumers' attitudes towards healthy eating and expectations of a healthy food or drink product, and, using a series of case studies, it explores strategies brands can harness to increase their competitiveness in lower tier cities.



"Consumers across all city tiers agree on what factors contribute to a healthy lifestyle and diet but lower tier city consumers are not as proactive in their health management. These consumers are more concerned about having to compromise on taste and, therefore, may encounter barriers to healthy eating in terms of self-control." – Annie Jiang, Research Analyst

Visit	store.mintel.com
EMEA	+44 (0) 20 7606 4533
Brazil	0800 095 9094
Americas	s +1 (312) 943 5250
China	+86 (21) 6032 7300
APAC	+61 (0) 2 8284 8100

Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

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
- · Covered in this report
- Report scope
- Objective and research methodology
- Quantitative research

Figure 1: The sample structure for each city is as follows:

- Qualitative research
  - Figure 2: Interviewed cities in the qualitative research
  - Figure 3: Profiles of respondents to the qualitative research

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Lower tier cities are less proactive in health management
   Figure 4: Factors important to achieving a healthy lifestyle –
   select factors, by city tier, July 2019
- Technology could be a way to nudge them into healthier behaviours

Figure 5: Attitudes towards health tech – "It's necessary to arrange diet and exercise according to daily monitoring of physical conditions (eg the amount of exercise, sleep quality)", by city tier, July 2020

- Lower tier cities more concerned about compromising on taste in a healthy diet
- · Simple, direct messages and powerful visual clues are key
- Personal branding rather than quality of information establishes credibility

Figure 6: Attitudes towards social commerce channels – select statements, by city tier, October 2018
Figure 7: Health information sources – select sources, April 2020

 Aftersales service is an important reassurance when expanding channels to market

Figure 8: Grocery shopping channels – select grocery categories, select channels, by city tier, September 2019

What we think

#### INTRODUCTION TO LOWER TIER CITIES IN CHINA

- Population and spending power
- Spending by Tier 3 and lower cities increases and takes a larger share

Figure 9: City populations and sales, by city tier, end of 2018

· Per capita disposable income and spending power grows

#### What's included

**Executive Summary** 

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

	Visit	store.mintel.com
	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

Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

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



Figure 10: Per capita salary vs per capita retail sales, by city tier, 2018

Spending confidence since the COVID-19 outbreak

Figure 11: GDP sector compositions, by city tier, 2018
Figure 12: Changes in financial status, percentage of
respondents claiming they are 'better off', by city tier, Apr-Jul
2020

Figure 13: Confidence in improving future finances, very confident/somewhat confident, by city tier, Apr-Jul 2020

- Demographic profile/analysis
- Gaps between city tiers narrowing in both economic and educational respects

Figure 14: Educational level of surveyed respondents, by city tier, 2017- June 2020

Figure 15: Car ownership and gym membership, by city tier, 2017- June 2020

#### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FOOD AND DRINK SPENDING

- Evident increase in in-home food spending across all tiers
   Figure 16: Changes in spending "Food (in home)", "Spent more", by city tier, February-November
- Fresh fruit and meal solutions saw the biggest volume update

Figure 17: Changes to consumption of select food and drink categories after COVID-19 – "Bought more", by city tier, Apr  $26\text{-May}\ 2$ 

· Dairy products lead trading up

Figure 18: Changes in food and drink categories after COVID-19, % spent more, by city tier, May 27-Jun 3 Figure 19: Changes in consumption frequency of packaged bakery foods – select sub-categories, by city tier, January 2020

#### THE CONSUMER: ATTITUDES TOWARDS HEALTH

 Quantitative data suggests no difference in defining what is needed to achieve good health

Figure 20: Factors important to achieving a healthy lifestyle – by city tier, July 2019

- However qualitative research reveals lower tier city consumers still spontaneously associate health with a lack of illness
- Reconciling quantitative and qualitative findings
- · Barriers to achieving a healthy lifestyle differ

#### What's included

**Executive Summary** 

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

Visit	store.mintel.com
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

Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

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



Figure 21: Factors important to achieving a healthy lifestyle – select factors with biggest difference, by city tier, July 2019

Strong interest in knowing more about health drives adoption of technologies

Figure 22: Attitudes towards health tech – "It's necessary to arrange diet and exercise according to daily monitoring of physical conditions (eg the amount of exercise, sleep quality)", by city tier, July 2020

- What it means for brands
- Creating a community to help consumers focus on holistic health

Figure 23: Keep forum "Showcase your nutritious breakfast"

 Using wearable technology to identify health issues and provide management plans

Figure 24: Screenshots of different services provided by the Boohee app

#### ATTITUDES TOWARDS HEALTHY EATING

 Other than meat consumption, consumers show broadly similar understanding of a healthy diet

Figure 25: Features of a healthy diet, by city tier, August 2020 Figure 26: Features of a healthy diet – "Controlling consumption of meat", by city tier, August 2020

 Lower tier city consumers are more likely to associate a healthy diet with compromising on taste

Figure 27: Cooking methods used – "Meat (excluding seafood and freshwater food)", by city tier, September 2020

- · Availability may be an issue restricting healthy eating
- What it means for brands
- · Create minus-claims without compromising on taste
- Use "healthy" ingredients to offset indulgent products
  Figure 28: Infographic on Chocday quinoa dark chocolate
- Leverage developments in new retail to increase availability

#### ATTRACTIVE PRODUCT FEATURES

- What difference does quantitative data suggest
- Simple clues are more likely to appeal to residents of lower tier cities

Figure 29: Attractive features of a light meal – select features, by city tier, November 2018

Figure 30: Superior aspects of chilled drinks – select aspects, by city tier, December 2019

#### What's included

**Executive Summary** 

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

Visit	store.mintel.com
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

Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

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



#### Premiumise with formal proof of sourcing

Figure 31: Interest in premium features of food and drink products, August 2020

Figure 32: Interest in premium features of food and drinks product – "Organic certification", by city tier, August 2020

- Why the difference as suggested by qualitative research
- Provide clear labelling to help consumers interpret complicated nutritional data
- Clean sourcing and freshness are key determinants of healthy ingredients
- Using innovative ways to prove quality of product
- What it means for brands
- Simplified message and visual guidance are more persuasive

Figure 33: Kellogg's cereal infographic

Figure 34: Classy Kiss Bifidobacterium C-I Flavored Yogurt,

China, 2020

Figure 35: Yogurt product consumed by female, 29, Shanxi Xianvana

Transparent tracing systems can help brands prove their authenticity

Figure 36: Screenshot of infant milk formula traceability WeChat mini program

Offer visual clues to prove quality of product

Figure 37: Hormel beef jerky product description page

Figure 38: Wonderful Pistachios product packaging

#### TRUST IN AUTHORITY

Generally higher trust than those in Tier 1 cities

Figure 39: Attitudes towards social commerce channels – select statements, by city tier, October 2018

Figure 40: Health information sources – select sources, by city tier, April 2020

- Trust is dependent on the information source rather than the quality of information
- Government-backed or public figures with positive images are strong reassurance
- · What it means for brands
- Establish authoritative personal brand of the founder

Figure 41: Cai Lan Hua Hua Shi Jie infographic

Figure 42: Huang Xiao Chu official Tmall store cover photo

Team up with specialized authority figures to establish trust

#### What's included

**Executive Summary** 

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

	Visit	store.mintel.com
	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

Report Price: £3695 | \$4995 | €4400

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



Figure 43: Infographic highlighting Dingxiang Doctor collaboration

#### **CHANNEL PREFERENCES**

 Even though online penetration is high, offline still plays an important role in lower tier

Figure 44: Grocery shopping channels – select grocery categories, select channels, by city tier, September 2019

- Choices limited by different levels of retail development
   Figure 45: Premium food and drink purchase channels –
   select channels, by city tier, February 2019
- Trust in quality and value-added services drive offline shopping
- What it means for brands
- Aftersales service guarantee is an important quality assurance

Figure 46: Consumer feedback on Chicecream apology package

#### **APPENDIX - ABBREVIATIONS**

Abbreviations

#### What's included

**Executive Summary** 

Full Report PDF

Infographic Overview

Powerpoint Presentation

Interactive Databook

Previous editions

## Did you know?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market.

All Mintel 2020 reports contain specific COVID-19 related research and forecasts. The world's leading brands rely on Mintel reports for the most complete, objective and actionable market intelligence.

	Visit	store.mintel.com
	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



## **About Mintel**

Mintel is the **expert in what consumers want and why.** As the world's leading market intelligence agency, our analysis of consumers, markets, product innovation and competitive landscapes provides a unique perspective on global and local economies. Since 1972, our predictive analytics and expert recommendations have enabled our clients to make better business decisions faster

Our purpose is to help businesses and people grow. To find out how we do that, visit mintel.com.