



## Retail Supply Chain Update

September 29, 2020

### Among U.S. grocery shoppers, 85% say COVID-19 hitting them in pocketbook

- Since the COVID-19 outbreak, 85% of Americans say they're paying more for groceries, and 75% report shelling out more money for household goods and services, according to a survey by C+R Research.
- In a poll of 2,040 U.S. consumers, Chicago-based C+R Research found that shoppers are spending an average of \$139 per week on groceries during the coronavirus pandemic. More than half (51%) said they're spending \$100 or more each week, with 28% laying out \$150 or more. The largest percentage of respondents (44%) are spending \$75 to \$149 weekly.

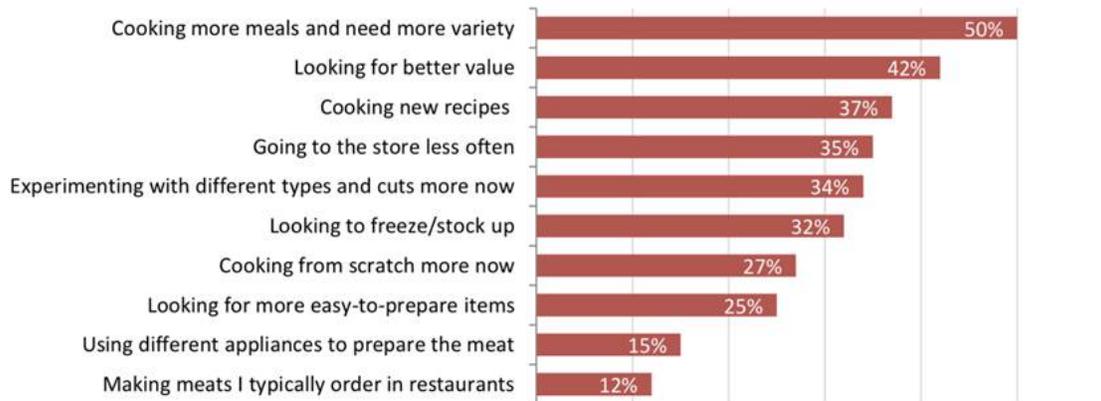
### Walmart, Target plan for the holidays with focus on safety and expanded hiring

- With the coronavirus pandemic still a threat as retailers head into the fall and holiday season, shoppers at Walmart and Target can expect to see a greater emphasis on online and contactless services this year. Both leading retailers will be expanding their work forces significantly for the holidays, with many of those positions going to e-commerce.
- Walmart will hire more than 20,000 seasonal associates in its e-commerce fulfillment centers across the country.
- At Minneapolis-based Target, staffing plans include more resources for contactless services and safety, additional opportunities for current team members, extensive local hiring and industry-leading pay and benefits.
- According to the company, twice as many store team members will be dedicated to contactless services, including Drive Up and Order Pickup, while distribution centers will hire more seasonal team members than last year to manage inventory being sent to stores. Team members stationed at the front of Target stores will focus on safety and cleaning, greeting and directing guests to help with their shopping.

### Consumer buying habits for meat shift during pandemic, as sales increase 34%

- Sales of meat increased an unprecedented 34.6% during the COVID-19 pandemic and revealed changing consumer behaviors, according to the new midyear Power of Meat study released by FMI –The Food Industry Association, the Foundation for Meat and Poultry Research and Education and the foundation for the North American Meat Institute (Meat Institute).
- Reflecting unprecedented growth, the meat department sold an additional \$7.9 billion and 1.4 billion pounds between March 15 and July 26 versus year ago, according to the report. Nearly half of shoppers (48%) bought more meat to support the greater number of at-home meal occasions. Beef generated 61% of new fresh meat dollars, with particular strength for ground beef.

#### Reasons for purchasing different meat/poultry items than usual



#### **Walmart, Target, and Kohl's are slated to hire an estimated 240,000 employees this holiday season — many of which will be dedicated to fulfilling online orders**

- National retailers like Walmart, Target, and Kohl's are betting big on e-commerce this holiday season.
- Those three companies alone plan to hire an estimated 240,000 seasonal workers.

#### **Target Deal Days, Amazon Prime Day both in October**

- Target plans to launch its Deal Days sale in October, coinciding with competitor Amazon's two-day Prime Day event.
- Both sales — being held Oct. 13 and 14 — come months later than usual after the normal retail schedule was upended by COVID-19. Last year, both Amazon and Minneapolis-based Target held their sales in mid-July.
- Target Deal Days will feature digital deals on thousands of items, more than double what the retailer offered last year as it adjusts to the surge of consumers who have shifted to shopping online during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The sales will melt into Target's already announced longer holiday sales season that the company said it would start in early October.
- A National Retail Federation survey released earlier this month found most retailers surveyed expected consumers to begin holiday shopping in October.
- Retailers have had to re-evaluate their Black Friday sales schedules as they try to adjust to changing customer shopping preferences and keeping their stores safe with holiday crowds.

#### **Tyson Foods to pilot health clinic in Lexington**

- As part of efforts to boost the overall health and wellness of its workforce, Tyson Foods, Inc. is partnering with Marathon Health to pilot a local health clinic near the company's Lexington, Nebraska beef plant.

- The clinic will give Tyson team members and their families easier access to high-quality healthcare and, in most cases, at no cost.

### **Meatpackers deny workers benefits for COVID-19 deaths, illnesses**

- Saul Sanchez died in April, one of six workers with fatal COVID-19 infections at meatpacker JBS USA's slaughterhouse in Greeley, Colorado, the site of one of the earliest and deadliest coronavirus outbreaks at a U.S. meatpacking plant.
- JBS, the world's largest meatpacker, denied the family's application for workers' compensation benefits, along with those filed by the families of two other Greeley workers who died of COVID-19, said lawyers handling the three claims.
- JBS has said the employees' COVID-19 infections were not work-related in denying the claims, according to responses the company gave to employees.
- As more Americans return to workplaces, the experience of JBS employees shows the difficulty of linking infections to employment and getting compensation for medical care and lost wages.
- "That is the ultimate question: How can you prove it?" said Nick Fogel, an attorney specializing in workers' compensation at the firm Burg Simpson in Colorado.

### **Amazon wants you to pay with a wave of your hand**

- Amazon's latest effort to speed up shopping trips lets you pay with the palm of your hand at some of its stores.
- On Tuesday, the company introduced Amazon One, which connects your palm print to a stored credit card so you can place your hand above a sensor to enter and buy items at checkout-free Amazon Go stores. (Typically, visitors use a code on their smartphone to open electronic gates inside these stores.)
- Dilip Kumar, Amazon's vice president of physical retail and technology, told CNN Business that Amazon One had been in the works since long before the pandemic. But the timing could be a positive for Amazon: Customers may find such contact-free entry and payment technology convenient, and businesses, which are increasingly looking to technological solutions to navigate the pandemic, may also find it appealing.

