## Back to School Shopping - US - J anuary 2016

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BTS (back-to-school) is the second-largest retail event of the year, behind only the winter holiday shopping season. Total back to school shopping (including both grade school and college) will result in close to $\$ 68$ billion in sales in 2015. Mintel survey data indicate that parents view back to school as basically an essential, rather than just a discretionary purchase.

This report looks at the following areas:

- Little growth seen in a stagnant market
- Digital fails to boost spend
- Almost all parents go back to school shopping - and many like it

However, growth has been stagnant in this category in recent years, and parents seem eager to take advantage of savings opportunities like tax free weekends, price match programs and shopping in dollar stores. This trend may be due in part to an uncertain economy that has made parents reluctant to spend big after some more extravagant spending shortly after the end of the recession. The increasing focus on digital textbooks and tools may also be lessening the need to purchase some supplies. In this report, Mintel looks at trends in the back-to-school shopping space and identifies potential opportunities for growth.

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## Table of Contents

## Overview <br> What you need to know <br> Definition

## Executive Summary

The issues
Little growth seen in a stagnant market
Figure 1: Total planned US back-to-school spending, at current prices, 2010-15
Digital fails to boost spend
Figure 2: Anticipated spend on electronics for back to school, by gender and age, November 2015
Almost all parents go back to school shopping - and many like it
Figure 3: Attitudes toward back to school shopping, November 2015
The opportunities
Battle for the budget
Figure 4: Retailers shopped for back to school (either in-store or online), November 2015
Offer the right products - at the right time
Think smart when it comes to digital
Be sensitive to life stages and different needs
What it means

## The Market - What You Need to Know

Slow growth seen in sales
School budgets tighten
Convenience is king
Teens turn their backs on brands

## Market Size

Economic trends, technology purchases play a role
Figure 5: Total planned US back-to-school spending, at current prices, 2010-15
Figure 6: Total planned US back-to-college spending, at current prices, 2010-2015

## Market Factors

## School enrollment is flat

Figure 7: US. school enrollment, 2010-2014
Budgets are getting slashed
Tax-free holidays drive timing
Schools go digital

```
Key Players - What You Need to Know
```

Save them time to win their dime

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It's all about Brand You
Digital dawns

## What's Working?

Do it their way
Be the one-stop-shop

## What's Struggling?

It's all in the timing...
....and not about the brand
Ethical beats edgy
What's Next?
Textbooks go digital
Taking back to school lists online
The Consumer - What You Need to Know
Who doesn't shop for back to school?
Walmart is in the winner's circle
Clothing costs the most
Shopping can still be fun

## Participation in Back to School Shopping

Everyone shops for back-to-school
Figure 8: Back-to-school shopping participation, by age of children in household, November 2015
Lowest earners less likely to shop
Figure 9: Back-to-school shopping participation, by household income, November 2015
Moms more likely to shop for back to school
Figure 10: Back-to-school shopping participation, by gender and age, November 2015

## Anticipated Spending for Upcoming BTS Season

Younger dads may be bigger spenders
Figure 11: Back-to-school shopping anticipated spend, by generation and parental status, November 2015
Few plan to cut back
Figure 12: Back-to-school shopping anticipated spend, by household income, November 2015
Room to increase spending among Asian parents
Figure 13: Back-to-school shopping anticipated spend, by race/Hispanic origin, November 2015

## Retailers Shopped for Back to School

Walmart is the winner
Figure 14: Retailers shopped for back-to-school, November 2015
Younger parents are Target fans
Figure 15: Retailers shopped (in-store or online) for back to school, by gender and age, November 2015
Amazon, Target, more popular with the affluent
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Figure 16: Retailers shopped for back-to-school (in-store or online), by household income, November 2015
Affluent, web users rely on Amazon and Walmart online
Figure 17: Retailers shopped online for back-to-school, by household income, November 2015

## Anticipated Spend by Category

Apparel dominates spend
Figure 18: Anticipated spend by category for back-to-school, November 2015

## Young dads more likely to spend on shoes, gadgets

Figure 19: Anticipated spend by category for back-to-school, by gender and age, November 2015
Shoes, supplies more of a priority for older kids
Figure 20: Anticipated spend by category for back to school, by age of children in household, November 2015

## Attitudes toward Back to School Shopping

Quality matters more than price
Figure 21: Attitudes toward back to school shopping, November 2015
Shopping more enjoyable for younger parents
Figure 22: Attitudes toward back-to-school shopping, by gender and age, November 2015
Blacks, Hispanics value quality, getting it right
Figure 23: Attitudes toward back-to-school shopping, by race/Hispanic origin, November 2015

## Back to School Shopping Influencers

School lists a top factor
Figure 24: Influencers on back-to-school shopping (any rank), November 2015
Younger parents more eager for advice
Figure 25: Influencers on back-to-school shopping (any rank), by gender and age, November 2015
Lower-income parents focus on school requirements
Figure 26: Influencers on back-to-school shopping (any rank), by household income, November 2015

## Desired Improvements to Back to School Shopping

Free shipping, convenience most desired
Figure 27: Desired improvements to back-to-school shopping, November 2015
No-hassle returns more important for older parents
Figure 28: Desired improvements to back-to-school shopping, by gender and age, November 2015
Bundles a good way to appeal to bargain hunters
Figure 29: Desired improvements to back-to-school shopping, by household income, November 2015

## Appendix - Data Sources and Abbreviations

Data sources
Sales data
Consumer survey data
Consumer qualitative research
Abbreviations and terms
Abbreviations

## Back to School Shopping - US - J anuary 2016

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

## Appendix - Market

Figure 30: Changes in state spending per student, 2008-15
Figure 31: Student access to digital devices, 2013

