INSTANT NOODLES, PASTA AND SOUP – INDIAN CONSUMER – 2023

Consumers are seeking healthier options. Offer greens, protein, no-oil or no-maida versions of their favourite instant foods. Desi twists to global flavours can boost appeal.





Instant Noodles, Pasta And Soup - Indian Consumer - 2023

This report looks at the following areas:

- Consumption of instant noodles, pasta and soup in the last three months
- An in-depth analysis of consumer demographics
- Consumption occasions of instant noodles, pasta and soup in the last three months
- Repertoire of the instant noodle brands consumed in the last three months
- Features that consumers are willing to pay a premium for in instant noodles/pasta/soup: added ingredients, health claims, maida alternatives



Consumers are seeking healthier options. Offer greens, protein, no-oil or no-maida versions of their favourite instant foods. Desi twists to global flavours can boost appeal.

Three key trends shaping the instant food industry in India

Overview

India's burgeoning instant noodles, pasta and soup market is propelled by time-constraint lifestyles and urbanisation, leading to strong preference for convenient, competitively priced products. The three instant foods together enjoy a 61% penetration, and are consumed the most by younger consumers, those from higher socio-economic groups and women. Instant noodles lead, followed by instant pasta and soup.

This report aims to uncover influencing factors such as health considerations and exposure to global culinary trends that significantly shape consumer preferences in instant foods. Its focus

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is on pivotal features that can drive innovation, thereby fostering increased consumption of instant foods in India.

The report explores key features encompassing health factors and claims, added ingredients and enticing flavours that have the potential to set brands apart, facilitating innovative strides within this market segment.

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Report Content

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- · Report definition
- · Mintel's perspective

Key issues covered in this Report

- Overview
- Amplify health quotient of instant foods with green vegetables and protein-rich ingredients
- Innovate to offer "no-maida, no-oil" versions of consumers' favourite instant foods
- Offer "no-maida, no-oil" versions of consumers' favourite instant foods
- · Embrace regional flavours and desi Asian flavours
- · Indian consumers prefer regional flavours over international ones
 - Graph 1: select flavours consumers are willing to pay more for in instant noodles,/pasta/soup, 2023

Mintel predicts

· The outlook for instant noodles, pasta and soup in India

KEY TRENDS

· What you need to know

Rising health focus amplifies scrutiny of ultra-processed foods

- · The health movement continues to gather momentum
 - Graph 2: % of consumers who claim to typically eat healthily 'all the time'*, 2023
- · Watch your back (of pack): consumers and influencers are paying close attention to nutrition labels and pack claims
- Mintel 2024 Global Food and Drink Trend: Trust The Process
- Global brands promote processing techniques that help to deliver healthier food and drink to consumers
- · Consumers seek macro- and micronutrients in food and drinks; protein is going mainstream in food and drinks
 - Graph 3: food and drink launches with high/added protein claims, 2018-23
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- · Consumers link protein and fibre with millets

Gen Zs blur the line between snacks and meals

- · Gen Z's side hustling propels demand for convenience and time-saving meals
- · Gen Zs are 'snackifying' meal occasions
 - Graph 5: snack consumption occasions among Gen Zs, 2023

• Global snack brands are focusing on ingredients and macronutrients that showcase satiety to become an ideal meal replacement

Increasing appetite for novel local and Korean flavours

- Consumers see value in embracing new experiences
 - Graph 6: select consumer behaviors around experiences*, 2023
- Desire for new experiences sparks consumers' interest in innovations in food and drinks
- · Consumer desire for novel experiences sets expectations for flavour innovation
- · Popularity of local flavours spotlights consumer's need to culturally connect with food and drinks
- Indian Gen Zs are talking about K-content
- The K-cult goes local
- · India's young taste seekers are warming up to K-noodles

WHAT CONSUMERS WANT AND WHY

- · What you need to know
- · Instant noodles are the undisputed favourite instant food
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Consumption of instant noodles

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 - Graph 9: sub-total share % of launches in instant noodles, 2018-23
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- Maggi's strong brand pull is an entry barrier for new players and a challenge for existing brands to gain consumer mindshare
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- Maggi's strong brand pull is an entry barrier for new players and a challenge for existing brands to gain consumer mindshare
- · Consumer segments: instant noodles
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- Explore soya, oats and lentils for instant noodles/pasta
- Target southern, eastern and western region dwellers with instant noodles/pasta made from rice
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- Egg-ceptional noodles: innovate in instant noodles with egg-infused varieties
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- Globally, cheese is an established ingredient in instant pasta and noodles; different varieties of cheese are entering the global market
- Say cheese, Instant noodles!
- · Say cheese, Instant pasta!
- · Say cheese, Instant soups!
- Added chicken in instant foods can drive consumption among eastern region dwellers
- · Opportunity for instant food brands to enter foodservice with focus on added fresh ingredients

Flavours in instant foods

- · Flavourscape of instant noodles in India
- · Flavourscape of instant pasta in India
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- Say Annyeonghaseyo! The K-war is on in instant noodles
- Knoor launches K-Pot to appease the younger generations

APPENDIX

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- Consumer survey methodology
- TURF methodology
- Repertoire analysis

About Mintel India Consumer

Access our reports now and we'll tell you how major trends are affecting India. We also hone in on the regional differences from socio-economic groups to demographics such as age, gender and household composition. We research consumers in Metro and Tier 1 to 3 cities across the 4 main regions and in 6 local languages.

In each report, we're analysing the trends and the innovations, the behaviours and the influencers of consumers across India. Our local expert analysts then examining the primary research and consumer data and translating it into what it means for you.

- Find out what Indian consumers want, what they need and what influences their purchasing decisions.
- Understand the Indian market and see how it fits into wider trends on a local and global level.
- ✓ Take advantage of the gaps and opportunities that exist today, tomorrow and beyond.

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Segment consumers across India according to their regional and demographic differences so you can target them more effectively.



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