

BACK-TO-SCHOOL TRENDS & INSIGHTS: OFFICE & SCHOOL SUPPLIES





Back-to-School Accounts for 48% of Yearly Traditional Supplies Unit Store Sales

Unit Share by Quarter – Traditional Supplies



Birth Of A Season Online

Back-to-school ecommerce spend is taking shape; a more prominent seasonal arc is forming from the first week of August and lasting through mid-September.



Back-To-School Season to Date Channel Dollar Spend

For six weeks end August 5, \$1.7B has been generated in Office Supplies, down -1.3% vs PY. As season progresses clear distinction between Brick & Mortar and Ecommerce trends continue.





Back-To-School Season Retail Dollar Sales

The South Most Impacted by Tax-Free Incentives

Those who live in the South are significantly more likely than their counterparts to shop on tax free shopping weeks when shopping for BTS, driven by fact that majority of states in this region offer tax-free shopping.



% Who Purchase During Tax Free Shopping Weeks

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7

Back-To-School Tax Free Dates Shifting & Decreasing

2017 date shifts for Alabama (earlier) and Texas (later). Ecommerce sites can comply with tax-free offerings.



Early and Late School Start DMA Differences

Early and late school starts influence when consumers are purchasing supplies and can drive total industry sales trends.



Back-To-School Season Category Dollar Spend

Writing, coloring/art, and office essentials did not grow at the same level in 2016 as 2015. 2017 Season to Date office essentials driving growth, colored pencils in decline.



Less Private Label in Higher Growth Categories

Categories with the strongest growth tend to have less penetration of Private Label products.



Consumers Are Seeking Convenience...



Back to School Kits



Online List Fulfillment



...but what about impulse?

Source: The NPD Group/LAB Pre-Season Report 2017

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Thank you

Tia Frapolli President US Office Supplies Email: tia.frapolli@npd.com Phone: 847-696-7271 Consumer Electronics E-commerce Food Consumption **Office Supplies** Video Games