

## Trends on Consumer Behaviour in an Inflationary Market

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## AskCaddle ${ }^{\circledR}$

Caddle $®$ is one of the largest, most diverse and daily active panel in the Canadian market. Our mobile-first insights platform rewards Canadians for sharing data and engaging with brands.

Caddle...the Voice of the Consumer!


## Methodology

- A representative survey of Canadians was conducted in October 2022 and repeated in January 2023 for comparison purposes.
- $\quad$ Sample sizes were $n=3,126$ and $n=3,132$ Canadians respectively.
- Grocery categories were the focus of this study.
- All data presented is owned by Caddle and has a Margin of Error of 1\% or lower.


## Key Findings

## During the last three

months: $94 \%$ of buyers have purchased more or the same amount of discounted products with expiry / best before dates within a few days of purchase

Past three months: Almost
$53 \%$ of buyers have purchased more Private Label / Store Brands


61\% of Canadians have reduced their meat purchases during the last three months due to increased prices.

## 92\% of Canadians think that food is more expensive than it was three months ago

- $95 \%$ of females think food is more expensive than it was three months ago.
- Canadian in these provinces are clearly noticing higher food prices
- $96 \%$ in Alberta
- $93 \%$ in Ontario

Do you think food is more expensive than it was three months ago?


## Do you think food is more expensive than it was three months ago?

*Those who said 'Yes'

|  | Gen X | Gen Z | Baby Boomers |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| January 2023 | $95 \%$ | $90 \%$ | $95 \%$ |
| Vs Oct 22 Net Change | $+4.3 \%$ | $+5.9 \%$ | $+2.2 \%$ |

92\% of all Canadians believe food prices are higher than 3 months ago

## More than 80\% of Canadians think that meat products are more expensive than they were three months

 ago- $77 \%$ of Canadians consider vegetables are costlier.
- $74 \%$ of Canadians consider fruits are costlier.
- Almost 89\% Canadians in Alberta think that meat products are more expensive that they were three months ago.
- Whereas $83 \%$ in Ontario have the same sentiment.

In your view, which food categories are now more expensive than three months ago?


## 35\% of buyers think that in the past three months meat products prices has increased the most

- Vegetables is the $2^{\text {nd }}$ category where 23.2 \% of buyers think the price has increased the most in the last three months.
- $37 \%$ of buyers in Alberta and Ontario think that in past three months meat products price has increased the most. 38\% of Quebecers agree.

In your view, what is the ONE food category which has increased the MOST in the last three months?


## In your view, which food categories are now more expensive than three months ago?

## Contrary to popular perception, bakery products have recorded the highest increase in prices

## Year over Year inflation rates by category

Product Category Percentage Increase (YoY)

| Bakery | $+14.7 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Vegetables | $+73.7 \%$ |
| Dairy Products | $+72.0 \%$ |
| Fruits | $+9.7 \%$ |
| Fish | $+8.3 \%$ |
| Meat | $+6.0 \%$ |

## 61\% of Canadians have reduced purchases of meat products during the last three months due to higher prices.

|  | Reduced purchase of meat <br> products due to higher price |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Generation | Yes \% | No \% |
| Greatest Gen | 40 | 60 |
| Baby Boomers | 65 | 35 |
| Gen X | 61 | 39 |
| Millennials | 64 | 36 |
| Gen Z | 53 | 47 |

Have you reduced your meat purchases during the last three months due to higher prices?


## If people are not willing to buy meat, what are they buying more of? <br> We asked our Daily Ommi Panel in October 2022

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Source: Caddle Custom Survey | October, 2022 | $n=9,047$

## And the winner is produce!

Almost 51\% reported buying more produce as compared to last year due to increasing meat prices.

- People also favoured dairy products as a good substitute for animal proteins.
- To replace fresh meat, people turn to the freezer aisle and are buying more of frozen products.

This year, have you spent more or less on fresh produce? ( $\mathrm{n}=9046$ )


## Shift to Private Label / Store Brands



## Private Label / Store brand over the national label, a shift in behavior to monitor

- 58.2\% of Canadians are buying more store brands/private labels, not a surprise, but a trend to watch moving forward


## Almost 53\% of buyers have purchased more store brands/ private labels in the last three months

- $40.3 \%$ of buyers' have made the same purchases of store brands / private labels.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | $\%$ | $\%$ |
| I'm buying much more private label/store brand | 22.3 | 25.7 |
| I'm buying little more private label/store brand | 24.1 | 27.1 |
| My purchases have not changed | 46.6 | 40.3 |

Which best describes your purchases of grocery store brands / private labels (instead of national brands) in the last three months?


## Overall Behavioura

## I Trends



## Consumers

 are adapting
## in an

inflationary market

- Consumers are buying less animal protein as a way to save, $61 \%$ of consumers are buying less meat, that's a lot.
- Coupons (52.9\%) and flyers (45.7\%) are the most popular methods to save.
- Despite higher food prices, the minority of shoppers see expiry dates as an opportunity to save, $46.6 \%$ for expiry date deals and $35.9 \%$ for "enjoy tonight" deals. These percentages are lower than expected.
- Calculators are shoppers' best friends. It appears that more and more are collecting data in realtime while shopping.


## Almost 53\% of buyers have used weekly grocery flyers more often for deals and savings in the last three months

- $44.3 \%$ of buyers have used the same amount of weekly flyers for deals and savings in the last three months.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | \% | $\%$ |
| I'm using them much more often | 33.0 | 36.0 |
| I'm using them little more often | 16.5 | 16.9 |
| I'm using them the same amount | 45.9 | 44.3 |

Which describes your use of weekly grocery flyers for deals and savings in the last three months?


## Almost 46\% of buyers used coupons or e-coupons more often for groceries in last three months

- Almost 50\% of buyers have used the same amount of coupons or e-coupons for groceries in the last three months.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | \% | $\%$ |
| I'm using them much more often | 26.5 | 27.4 |
| I'm using them little more often | 20.7 | 16.3 |
| I'm using them the same amount | 47.7 | 49.9 |

Which describes your use of coupons or e-coupons for groceries in last three months?


## Over 46\% of buyers have purchased discounted products more often with expiry / best-before dates within a few days of purchase

- Over 54\% of Gen Z buyers have purchased more often discounted products with expiry / bestbefore dates within a few days of purchase in the last three months.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | $\%$ | $\%$ |
| I'm buying them much more often | 22.0 | 24.2 |
| I'm buying them little more often | 23.4 | 22.4 |
| I'm buying them the same amount | 49.3 | 47.3 |

Which best describes your purchases of discounted products with expiry / best-before dates within a few days of purchase in the last three months?


## 36\% of buyers purchased more products labelled "Enjoy Tonight" in last three months

- $54.3 \%$ of buyers purchased the same amount of products labelled "Enjoy Tonight" in last three months.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | \% | $\%$ |
| I'm buying them much more often | 16.6 | 18.2 |
| I'm buying them little more often | 17.3 | 17.7 |
| I'm buying them the same amount | 56 | 54.3 |

Which best describes your purchases of products labelled "Enjoy Tonight" in the last three months?


## Let's talk about food waste

## 21\% of households are throwing away <br> "more than a reasonable" amount of <br> food each week

- Its estimated that on average, households waste at least $20 \%$ of the food they buy
- $17 \%$ of households throw away more than this average
- And compared to last year, $14 \%$ of households estimate that they are throwing away MORE than last year.
- Expiring food in the fridge, leftovers/food left on the plate and buying too much food are the TOP 3 reasons for this waste
- From the food that goes bad in the fridge, vegetables, fruit, dairy and baked goods are the top 4 categories that are wasted each week

How much food would you say that your household usually throws away each week? ( $\mathrm{n}=8870$ )






## 28\% of buyers used their phones "all the time" while in the store to check the prices of similar products at other stores.

- $22 \%$ of buyers "often" used their phones while in the store.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | \% | $\%$ |
| All the time | 28.2 | 28.3 |
| Often | 21.2 | 22.0 |
| Occasionally | 22.5 | 23.8 |
| Rarely | 14.0 | 12.3 |
| Never | 14.0 | 13.6 |

Do you use your phone while in the store to check the prices of similar products at other stores?


## Almost 13 \% of buyers "always" use a calculator when grocery shopping

- $14 \%$ of buyers "often" use a calculator when grocery shopping.
- $27 \%$ of buyers "occasionally" use a calculator when grocery shopping.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | \% | \% |
| All the time | 16.1 | 12.8 |
| Often | 15.5 | 14.0 |
| Occasionally | 24.2 | 26.8 |
| Rarely | 14.9 | 17.2 |
| Never | 29.3 | 29.1 |

Do you use a calculator when grocery shopping?


## 31\% of buyers know "all the time" how much they should be paying for any food product before they enter the grocery store.

- 46\% of buyers "often" know how much they should be paying for any food product before they enter the grocery store.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | \% | $\%$ |
| All the time | 30.7 | 31.3 |
| Often | 41.5 | 43.6 |
| Occasionally | 19.8 | 18.3 |
| Rarely | 5.5 | 4.4 |
| Never | 2.5 | 2.4 |

Do you typically know how much you should be paying for any food product before you enter the grocery store?


## 20\% of buyers follow a budget when grocery shopping "all the time".

- $28 \%$ of buyers "often" follow a budget when grocery shopping and are open to 'negotiating' while grocery shopping.
- $48.4 \%$ state that they budget, and $27.1 \%$ say they budget occasionally.

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | \% | \% |
| All the time | 24.7 | 20.3 |
| Often | 29.9 | 28.1 |
| Occasionally | 26.3 | 27.1 |
| Rarely | 15.3 | 13.8 |
| Never | 9.4 | 10.7 |

Do you follow a budget when grocery shopping?


## 53.5\% of buyers noticed that there is a reduction in size/volume/quantity of "other grocery products" for a simillar price from three months ago

- Consumers are noticing shrinkflation

| Comparison with Oct- 22 | Oct-22 | Jan-23 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Description | \% | \% |
| Other Grocery Products | 50.1 | 53.5 |
| With Bakery Products | 42.7 | 41.0 |
| With Meat Products | 29.8 | 32.6 |
| With Dairy Products | 29.4 | 30.1 |
| With fruits | 21.9 | 23.8 |
| With Vegetables | 20.8 | 23.2 |
| With fish and Seafood | 16.0 | 17.3 |
| I haven't noticed this in any of these category |  |  |

Have you noticed a reduction in product size/volume/quantity for a similar price from three months ago in any of the following categories?


## Want to dig into the data? Let's talk insights.



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