



Research & Insights 2026 Releases

*NOTE: SOME DATES AND PROJECTS ARE TENTATIVE

Any questions or suggestions should be directed to Steve Markenson at SMarkenson@fmi.org.
Orange text denotes new research for 2026

SIGNATURE RESEARCH

May 2026: *U.S. Grocery Shopper Trends* tracks trends among U.S. grocery shoppers, and for the last five decades has traced where they shop, how they shop and what issues are most important to them as consumers.

- January: Shopper Snapshot
- May: **Bricks, Clicks and the Evolving Mix**
- August (Tracker) – Return To Routine
- October (Tracker) – Holidays

Ongoing: *Grocery Shopper Snapshots* are brief monthly surveys of grocery shoppers designed to gauge shopper sentiment on new and evolving issues impacting the food industry.

June 2026: *The Food Retailing Industry Speaks* is an annual survey of retailers, wholesalers and suppliers that provides operational and financial benchmarks, assesses perceptions of the competitive environment, determines what differentiation tactics are effective and identifies issues having the biggest impact on sales/profits. FMI has conducted this survey annually for more than 75 years.

August 2026: *The State of Fresh Foods* is a report spotlighting fresh foods in order to showcase key trends and data points. These include statistics on aspects ranging from share of store sales to space and labor allocation. *The State of Fresh Foods* is drawn from *Speaks* and other FMI research.

September 2026: *The State of Technology in the Food Industry* is a report spotlighting technology in order to showcase key trends and data points. These include statistics on aspects ranging from usage to labor allocation. *The State of Technology* is drawn from *Speaks* and other FMI research.

September 2026: *Food Industry Workforce Study* is a new report spotlighting workforce and human resource issues in order to explore industry strategies, priorities, key trends and data points. This report will draw data and insights from *The Food Retailing Industry Speaks*.

In 2025, **did you know** FMI has

- Conducted more than 30,000 shopper surveys?
- Spent hundreds of hours conducting shopper interviews and ethnographic research?
- Produced more than 30 reports on and for the food industry?
- Shared this research through reports, presentations, web experiences, videos, webinars, podcasts, social media and more?

Conducted with input from and for the food industry. Visit www.fmi.org for more information.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

January 2026: *The Power of Nonfoods* is the third consumer research study exploring consumer shopping behavior in the nonfoods departments conducted by FMI.

January 2026: *The Power of Health and Well-being* is our annual curation from a wide range of FMI research and content emerging trends, attitudes and benchmarks regarding health and well-being.

January 2026: *Food Industry Contributions to Health and Well-Being* explores how the food industry is contributing to the health of their customers. This report demonstrates how grocery stores have become both a destination and partner in a shopper's health and well-being journey.

February 2026: *The Power of Frozen Foods* is the next edition of this research study conducted in conjunction with the American Frozen Foods Institute (AFFI). The report documents the frozen foods aisle from the perspective of the shopper.

February 2026: *The Power of Produce* identifies the biggest trends in consumer purchasing and consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables throughout the path to purchase. Shopper feedback is overlaid with actual sales data.

March 2026: *The Power of Meat* provides its 21st annual update of meat shopper habits regarding meat and poultry pre-trip, in-store, online and at home.

March 2026: *The Power of Seafood* is the seventh comprehensive consumer research study exploring consumer shopping behavior in the seafood department conducted by FMI.

April 2026: *Digitally Engaged Grocery Shopper* explores the rapid shift to online grocery shopping that began during the pandemic, the outlook for continued growth, and the increased use of technologies transforming how the industry operates and how consumers interact with digital grocery experiences.

May 2026: *Asset Protection in Food Retail* looks at asset protection issues in the industry from shoppers' and retailers' perspectives. This report will assess asset protection strategies to address a range of traditional and emerging threats—from natural disasters to active shooters. This report will explore how the strategies impact consumers' concerns about safety/security while grocery shopping.

May 2026: *(NEW) Food Retailing Financial Executive Study* is a new study being guided by the industry to explore various financial issues impacting the food industry. This report identifies financial and strategic topics for benchmarking and planning purposes, as well as industry performance statistics.

June 2026: *The Power of Private Brands: From the Consumer* is FMI's annual exploration of private brands from the perspective of the consumer.

July 2026: *(NEW) The Power of Beverage* is FMI's first consumer research study exploring consumer shopping attitudes and behavior regarding the wide of array of beverages offered by the food industry.

September 2026: *The Power of Private Brands: From the Industry* is FMI's annual exploration of private brands from the business side.

October 2026: *The Power of Foodservice at Retail* report assesses trends in consumer consumption of deli/fresh prepared foodservice items. This study aims to provide insight on inputs to help drive further growth by looking at all aspects of grocery deli-prepared through the eyes of the consumer.

Other New Research & Insights Topics for 2026:

Sustainability in the Food Industry
Food Labeling

Generational Trends (Gen Z to Boomers)
K-Shaped Economy

We conduct research so we can provide our members and the industry with insights.