



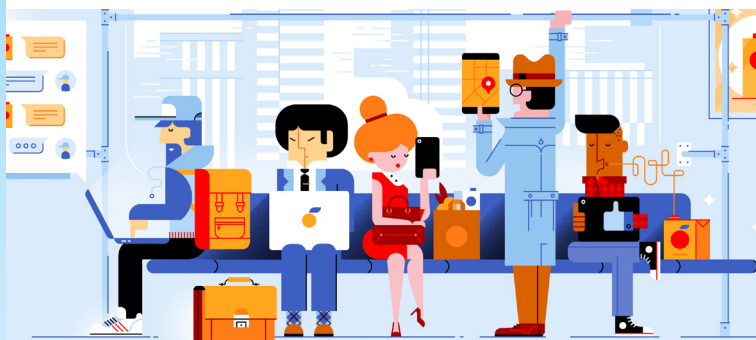
TOP 10 INSIGHTS

THE CONNECTED CONSUMER

1

A world of consumer commentary

With blogs/forums, social media, consumer comments and reviews all on the rise, everyone online can have a voice. Brands can't speak loud enough on their own. They need to engage proactively, cultivating user-generated content, partnering with bloggers and harnessing the power of Super Leaders to amplify their messages.



2

Mobile is king

The world is increasingly mobile-centric, particularly developing markets which often skipped PCs. China is notably advanced: a great place to study trends. Brands everywhere now need a mobile-first strategy. In fact, in the US, some are shifting to "mobile-only" to "keep pace with on-the-go consumers".

3

Trust, tone & influence

With institutional "trust in crisis", consumers increasingly trust "people like us" who share their values and outlook on life. Brands need to show that they share these traits too; to be more transparent and speak with greater honesty and authenticity, while leveraging "real people" as brand advocates.

4

Segmentation & Super Leaders

Online behaviour requires a new kind of consumer segmentation framework. The most active and most social group of all are the Super Leaders: comprising just 7% of connected consumers, they are the influencers, trendsetters and early adopters. Well connected and vocal, they are a golden source both of brand advocacy and market insight.

5

Where & how to engage

Super Leaders are very open to engagement: almost half have daily brand interactions on social media. They expect brands to respond to their reviews and comments, which tend to be positive, underscoring the importance of engagement.



6

Consistency is crucial

As channels proliferate and ever more links in the value chain interact with consumers, brands need to work harder to create consistent messaging and a seamless customer journey across multiple touchpoints.

7

From push to pull

Most Super Leaders search for information at least once on their purchasing journey, mainly before buying (81%) when they look at an average 4.4 sources. Social media has a strong role to play throughout, but the "traditional" brand website remains a vital information source.

8

In-store still pivotal

Food and beverages are still overwhelmingly purchased offline and stores continue to be a top source of new product discovery. In-store marketing remains critical to product campaigns. But digital is key here too, influencing more than half of all in-store purchases.

9

Rise of e-commerce

E-commerce is rising everywhere and is forecast to account for 10% of all food purchases by 2021. It is causing disruption across the value chain, with major players such as Amazon promising much more to come. Mobile is "firmly on the march toward becoming the online shopping tool of choice".

10

Packaging matters

As consumers now look for personalised experiences from brands, unique digital packages, AR and custom printing provide new opportunities for brands to engage and deepen relationships – and, crucially, to connect directly.



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