

*A Better World,
Through Better Business*



Center for
Sustainable Business

Sustainable Market Share Index™

*Research on 2015-2020 IRI Purchasing
Data Reveals Sustainability Drives Growth,
Survives the Pandemic*

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Sustainable Market Share Index™: Executive Summary



We reviewed consumer purchasing of sustainability-marketed products in 36 CPG categories comprising ~40% of the total CPG market* (\$). Our findings are:

- Sustainability-marketed products **delivered 54.7% of CPG market growth** (2015-2019) despite representing only 16.1% share of the category(\$) in 2019, up +2.4 ppts vs. 2015 (Pgs. 5,6). Sustainability-marketed products **grew 7.1x faster** than products not marketed as sustainable (Pg. 7).
- Sustainability marketed products continue to **grow despite the COVID-19** pandemic (Pgs. 10-13).
- The market share of sustainability-marketed products aligns along a continuum based on perceived category functionality or efficacy (Pg. 15). Even in categories with low shares, shares of sustainability-marketed products increased.
- Sustainability-marketed branded products enjoy a **significant price premium of 39.5%**** vs. their conventionally-marketed branded counterparts, with a widening premium of +5.3 pts vs. 2014 (Pgs. 17-20).
- Per capita, the top 5 states for purchases of sustainability-marketed products are NH, ME, MA,VT and CT (Pg. 22).
- Upper income, millennials, college-educated and urban consumers are more likely to buy sustainability-marketed products. In addition, Middle Income, Baby Boomers and Gen Xers contribute a significant percent of sustainable sales (Pgs. 24-27).



Consumer packaged goods (CPG) companies are responding to changing generational expectations, including for more sustainable product offerings, yet understanding of sustainable purchasing trends is limited.

The NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business partnered with IRI, who provided the data pro bono, to assess the following:

1. Have purchases of sustainable products increased over time?
2. Have sustainable purchases been impacted by COVID-19?
3. Are there specific product categories for which the purchases of more sustainable product options out- or under-perform less sustainable alternatives?
4. What is the impact of price on purchases of sustainable products?
5. Are there geographical differences in sustainable purchasing?
6. What is the demographic profile of the sustainable purchaser?



Research Question 1:

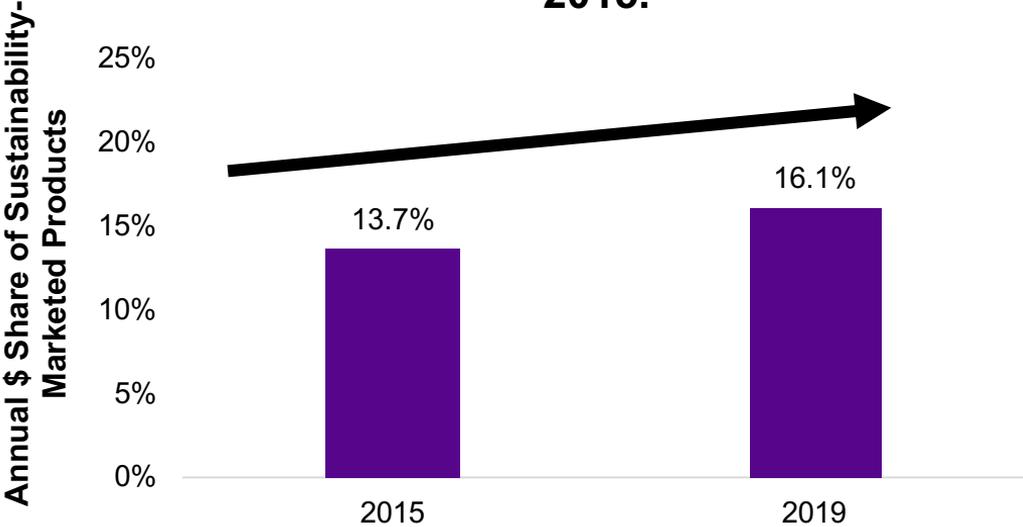
Have purchases of sustainable products increased over time?

Research Result:

Not only are sustainability-marketed products growing but they also are contributing to a disproportionate share of the CPG category growth.



Across all categories studied, sustainability-marketed products account for 16.1%* share of market (\$) in 2019, up from 13.7%* in 2015.

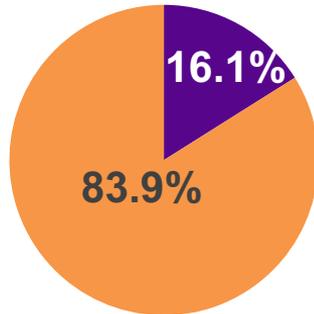


* Shares updated due to CSB & IRI re-categorizations; based on 36 categories examined



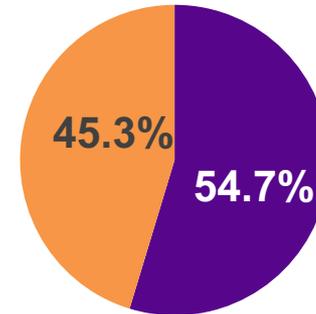
Despite the fact that sustainability-marketed products are 16.1%* of the market, they delivered 54.7% of the CPG market growth (2015-2019).

\$ Share of Market
(2019)



- Sustainability-marketed products
- Conventionally-marketed products

\$ Share of Market Growth
(2015-2019)



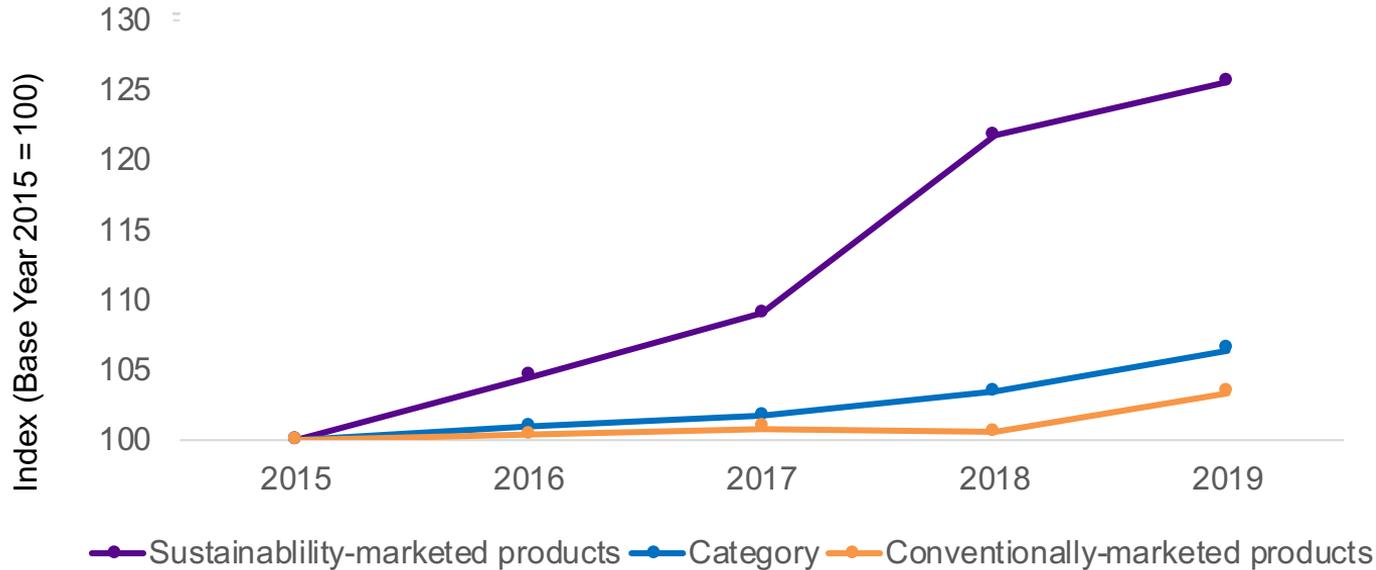
- Sustainability-marketed products
- Conventionally-marketed products

* Shares updated due to CSB & IRI re-categorizations; based on 36 categories examined

Sustainable Market Share Index™: Growth Rate



Sustainability-marketed products grew 7.1x faster than conventionally-marketed products, and 3.8x faster than the CPG market.



Sustainability-marketed
4-YR CAGR:
5.86%

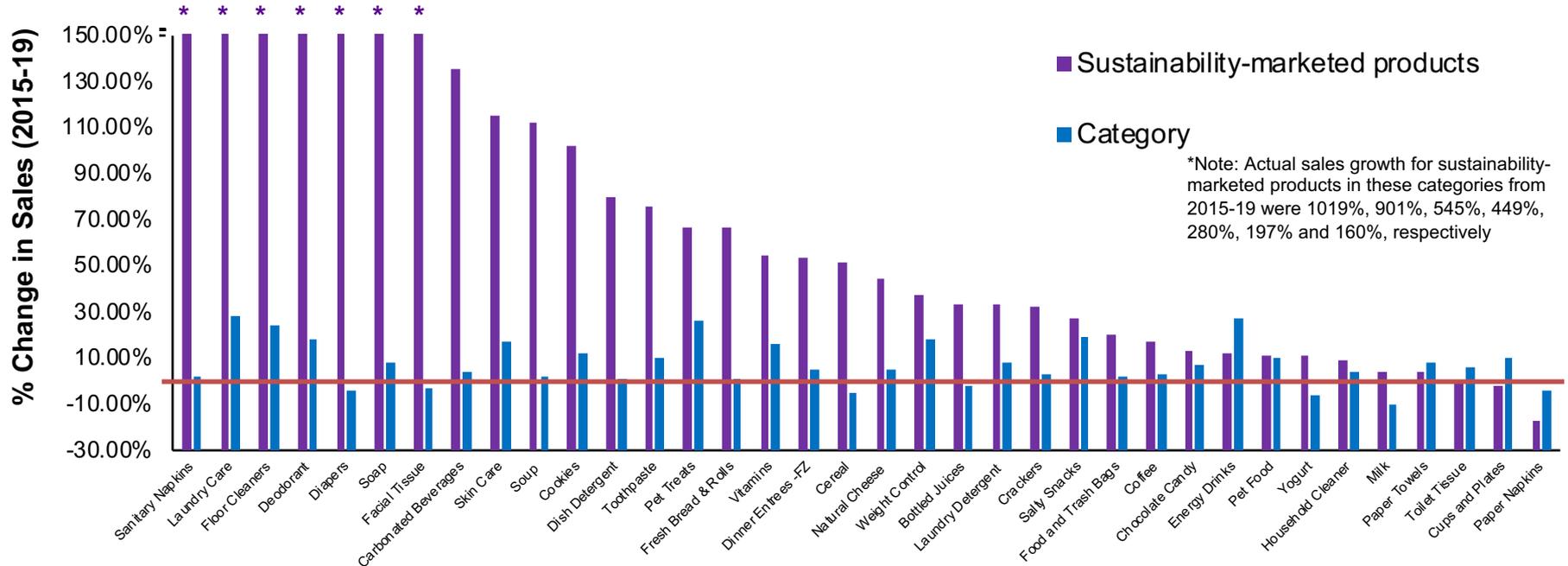
Total Market
4-YR CAGR:
1.56%

Conventionally-marketed
4-YR CAGR:
0.83%

Sustainable Market Share Index™: Category Performance



In ~90% of individual product categories, the growth of sustainability-marketed products outpaced the growth of their respective categories.



* Paper towels, cups and plates, toilet tissue and paper napkins lost share to private label. Because we did not have visibility into private label to ascertain if there were claims regarding sustainability, we had to assume they were not marketed as sustainable. So, in fact, if private labels were making claims of sustainability (as we have observed they do on shelf), these categories may not have seen share decline of sustainability-marketed products .



Research Question 2:

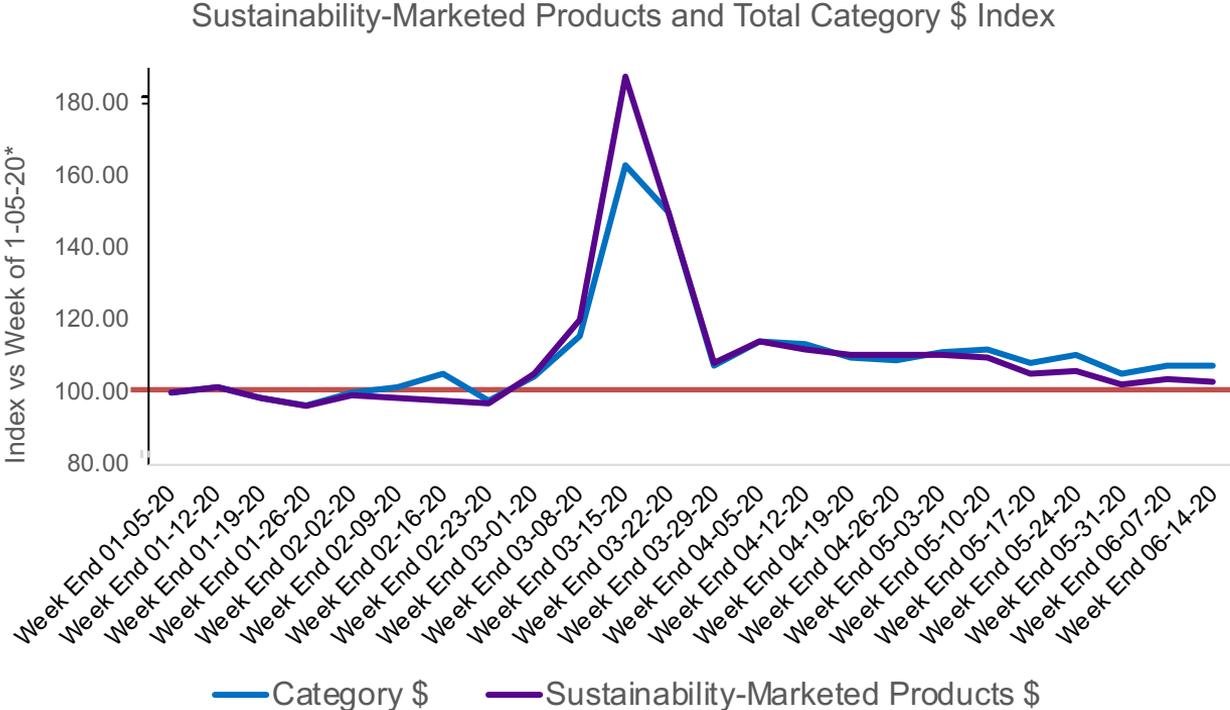
Have sustainable purchases been impacted by COVID-19?

Research Result:

- Purchases of sustainability marketed products continue to grow in the face of the pandemic.



Both sustainability-marketed and total category sales grew significantly and similarly the week ending March 15th



* Index vs 100



Shares of sustainability-marketed products grew significantly the week of March 15th and have continued to maintain share through mid-June

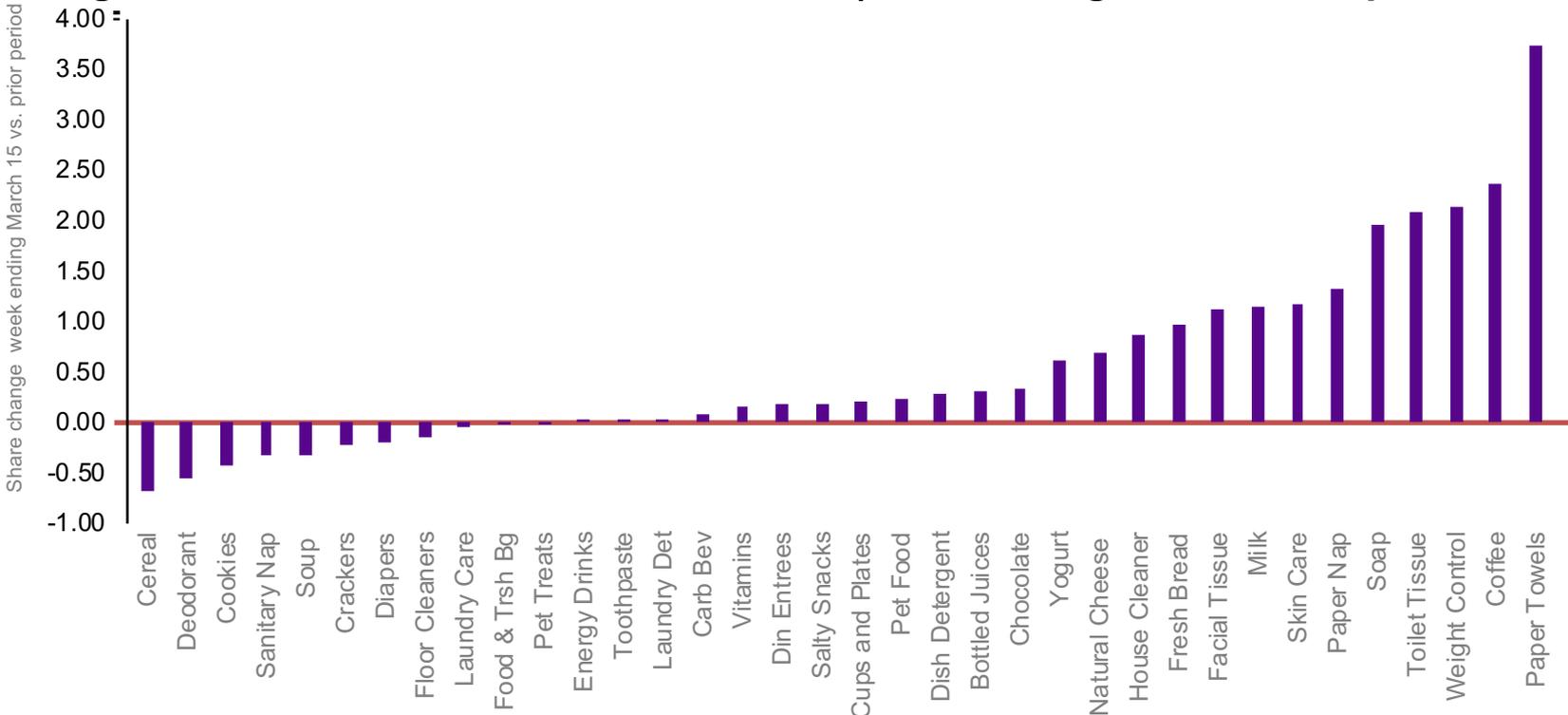
Sustainability-Marketed Product Share



Sustainable Market Share Index™: March 15 share performance

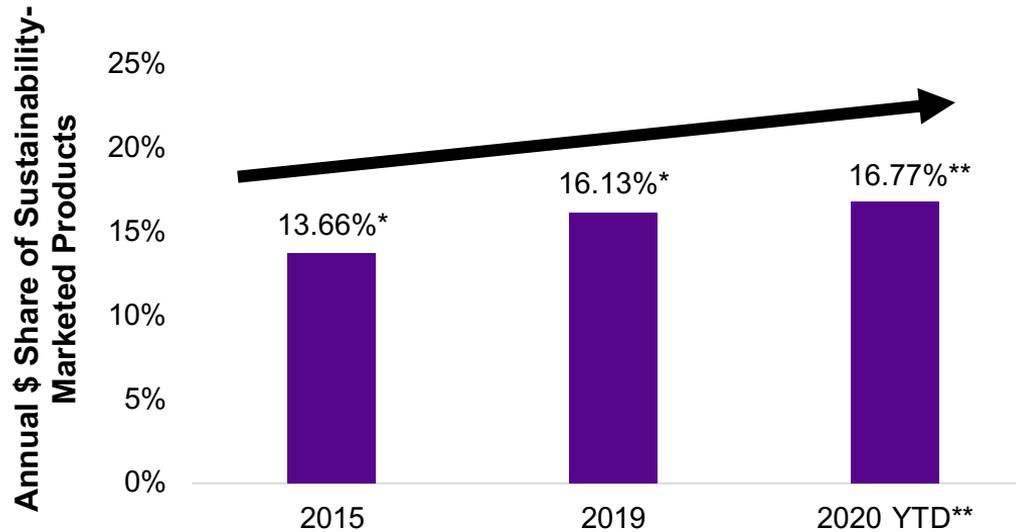


Paper goods, skincare and food items drove the greatest week to week share increases (week ending March 15 vs prior week).





Sustainability-marketed products now account for 16.8% YTD, +.6pts vs. 2019



* Shares updated due to CSB & IRI re-categorizations

** January-June 15th, 2020



Research Question 3:

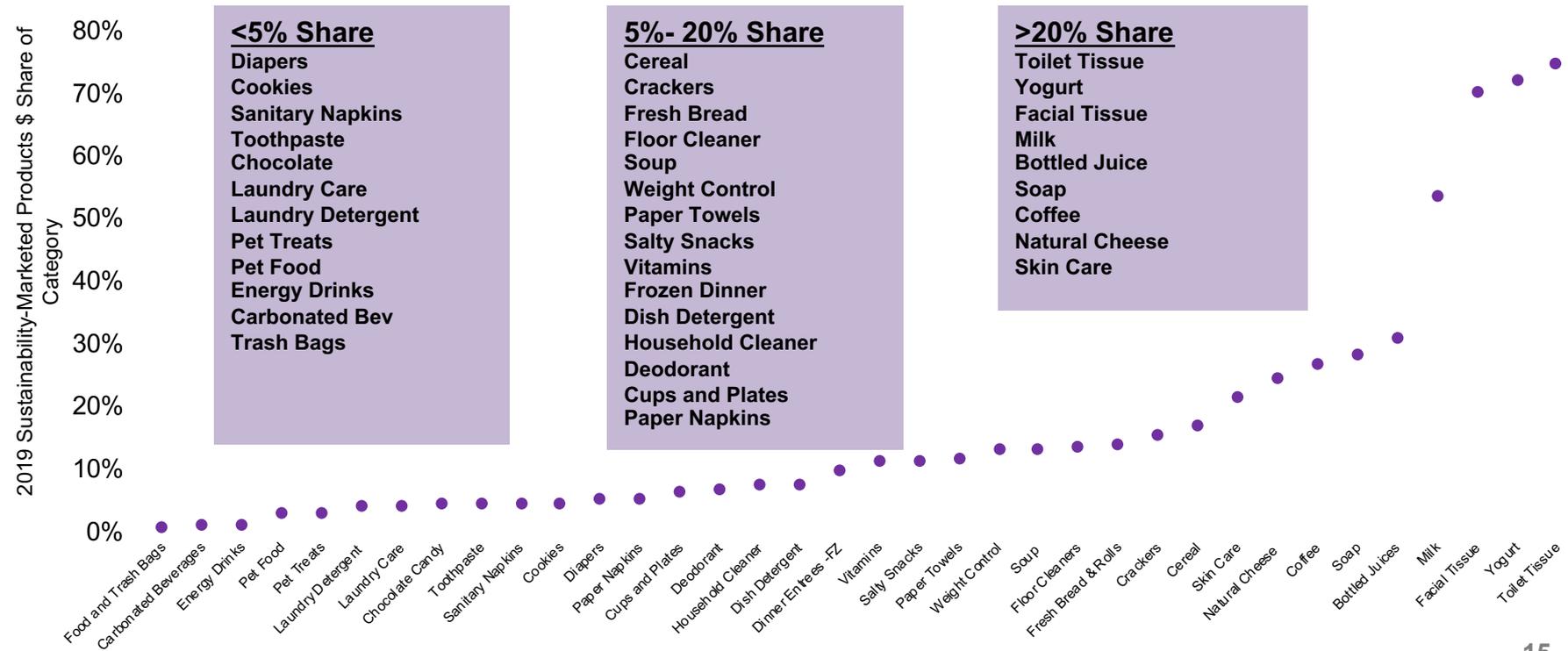
Are there specific product categories where the purchases of more sustainable product options out or underperform less sustainable alternatives?

Research Result:

- Yes. Categories that demand high functionality (e.g., detergent) do not have a large percentage of sustainable purchases, but nevertheless experienced share growth.
- Conversely, categories with low functionality demands (e.g., dairy) have higher category consumption.



Sustainable Market Share Index™: Shares of Sustainable Products





Research Question 4:

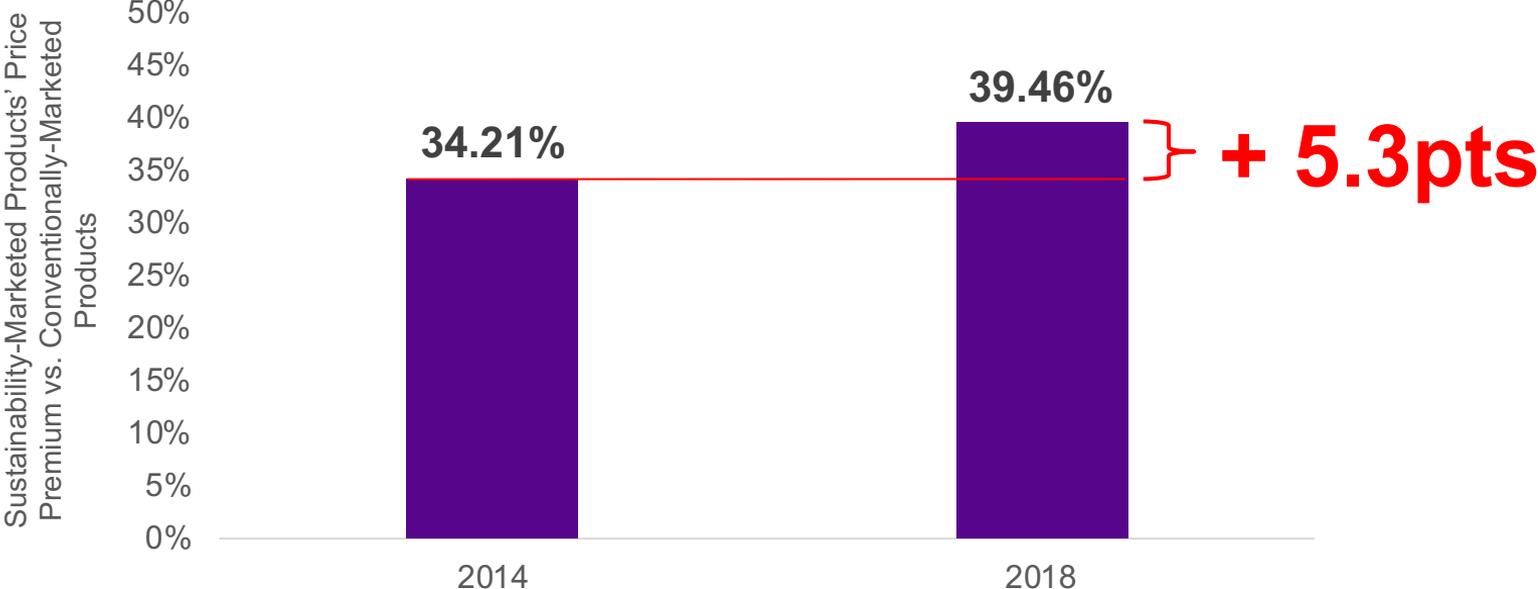
What is the impact of price on purchases of sustainable products*?

Research Result:

- Despite significant price premiums, sustainability-marketed products grew far faster than the conventionally branded players and had lower price sensitivity in 2/3rds of the categories examined.



Sustainability-marketed products enjoyed a sizeable price premium at 39%* over conventionally-marketed products, and increased +5.3 pts since 2014

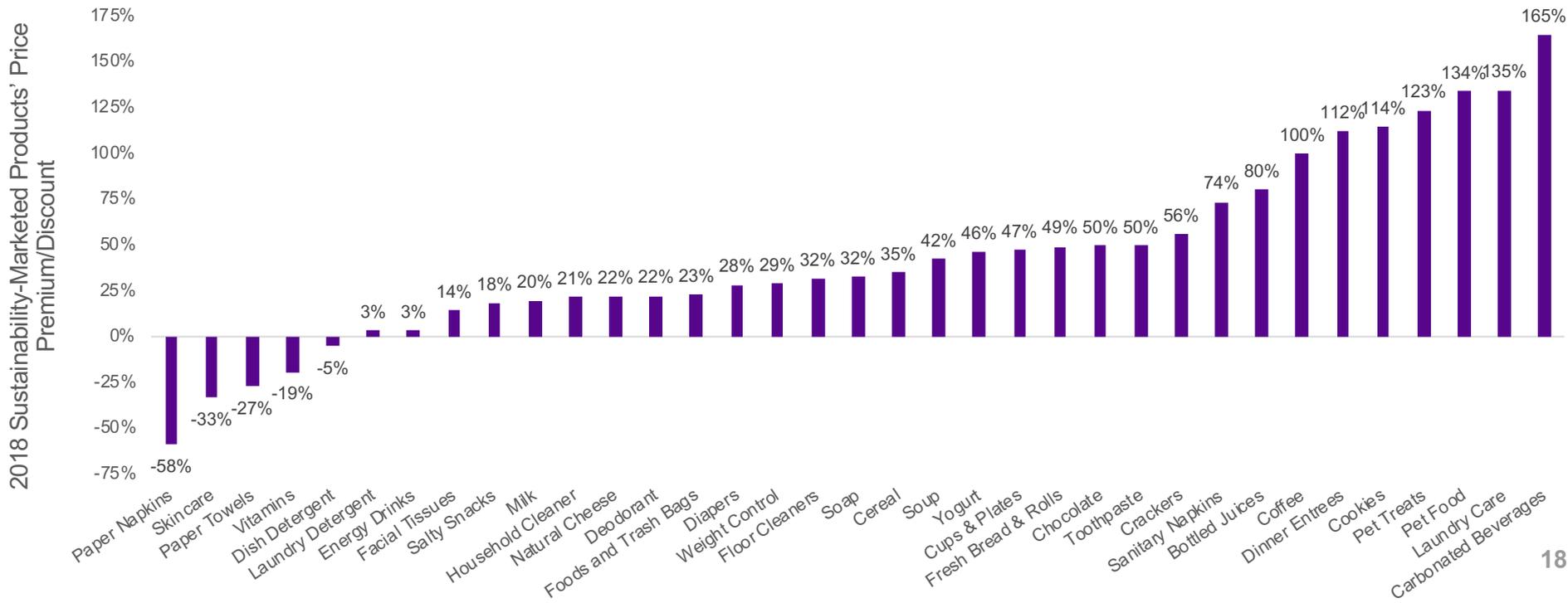


*Weighted by \$ Sustainable Sales of categories examined; analysis excluded store brand/private label

Sustainable Market Share Index™: Price Premium by Category



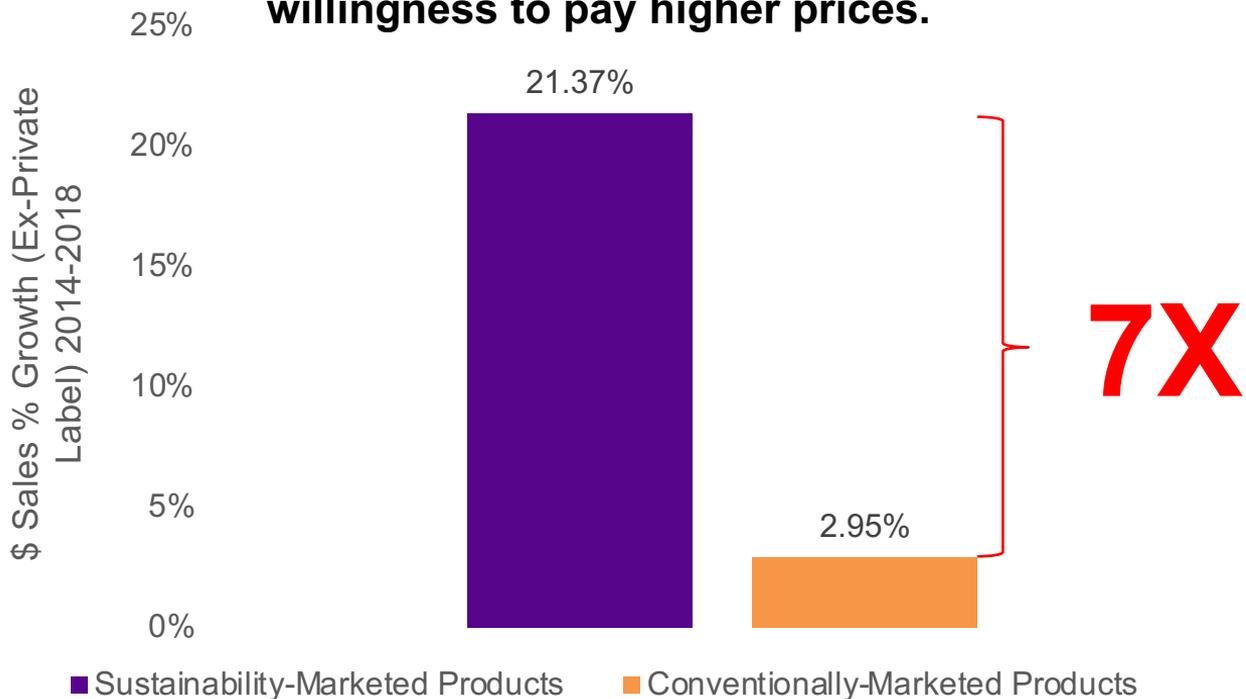
Price premiums ranged from 3% to over 150%. Only a few categories had a price discount vs. conventionally-marketed products.



Sustainable Market Share Index™: Growth of Sustainable Branded Players



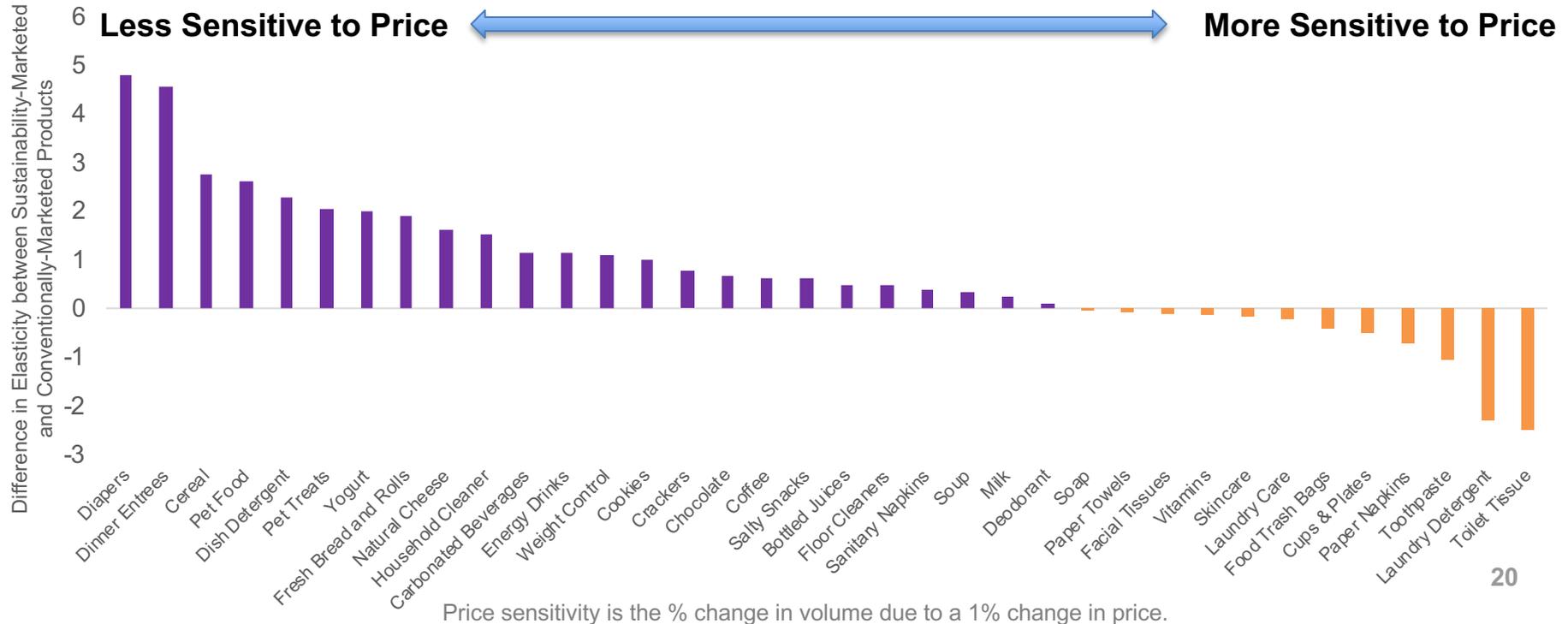
Among branded players, sustainability-marketed products grew over 7x faster than conventionally-marketed products, indicating consumers' willingness to pay higher prices.



Sustainable Market Share Index™: Price Sensitivity



Sustainability-marketed products had lower price sensitivity in most categories studied: Food categories had the greatest price leverage.





Research Question 5:

Are there geographical differences in sustainable purchasing?

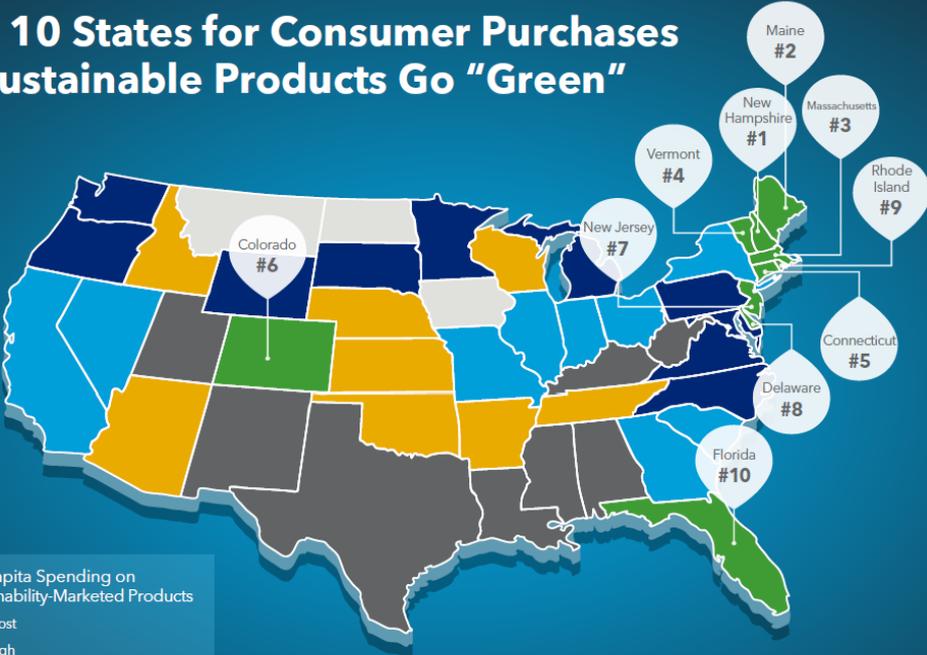
Research Result:

- Yes. The top 5 states in terms of per capita* basis spending of sustainability-marketed products are New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Connecticut; the bottom five are Mississippi, Utah, Texas, Alabama and Kentucky
- Measured by state-wide purchases, however, California, Florida, Texas, New York, and Pennsylvania top the ranking in terms of total sustainable dollars spent due to the size of the states.

*STI: PopStats; based on 36 categories examined



Top 10 States for Consumer Purchases of Sustainable Products Go "Green"



Per Capita Spending on Sustainability-Marketed Products

- Most
- High
- Average
- Low
- Least
- Insufficient Data

STI: PopStats



Research Question 6:

What is the demographic profile of the sustainable purchaser*?

Research Result:

- Millennials, upper income, college-educated and more urban cohorts are more likely to buy sustainability-marketed products.
- Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, upper and middle income, college educated and urban cohorts account for the bulk of the sustainable dollars spent.

Sustainable Market Share Index™: Generational Cohorts



The younger the household, the more likely they were to buy sustainability-marketed products. However, most sustainability-marketed product purchases came from Gen X and Boomers.

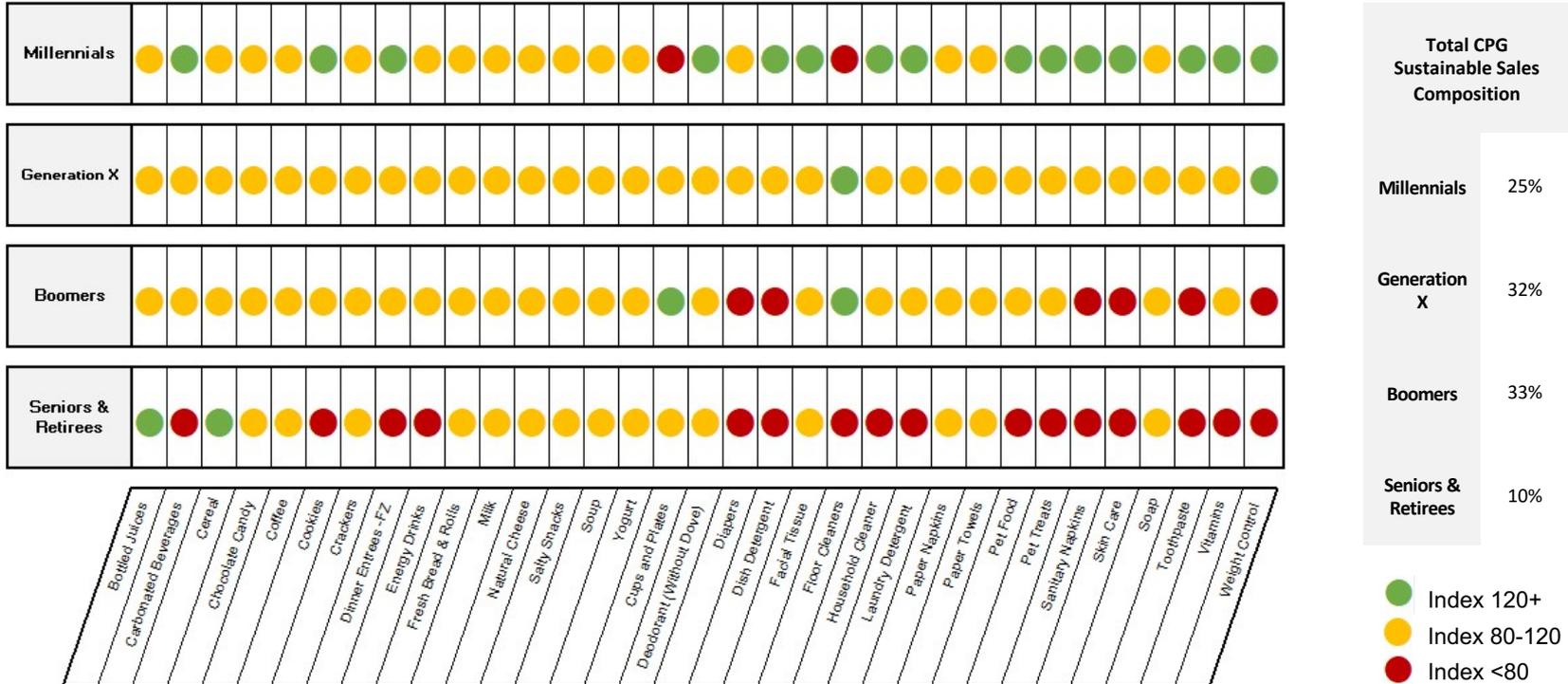


Chart read as: Millennials purchased a significantly higher percent (>1.2x) of their Carbonated Beverage purchases on sustainability-marketed products, than did Average HHs.

Sustainable Market Share Index™ : Income Tiers



The higher the household income, the more likely they were to buy sustainability-marketed products. Upper/middle income made up the highest percent of sustainability-marketed product dollars spent.

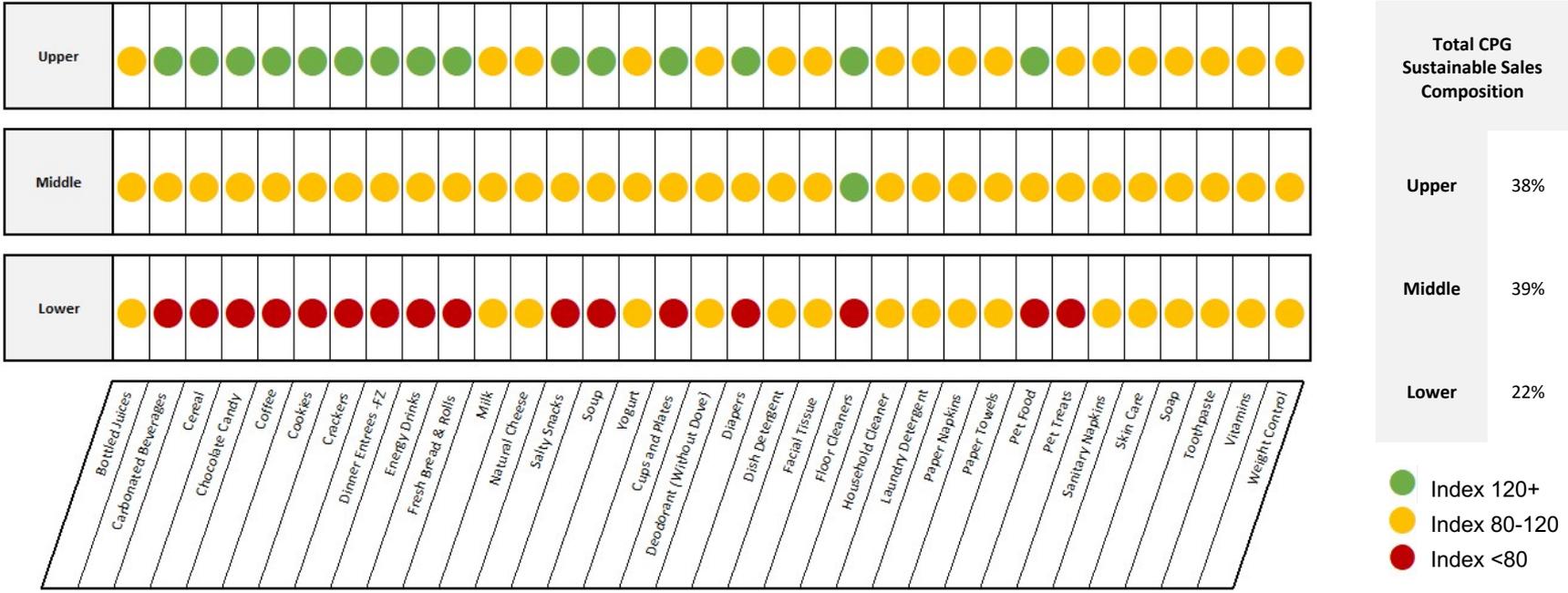


Chart read as: Upper Income Households purchased a significantly higher percent (>1.2x) of their Carbonated Beverage purchases on sustainability-marketed products, than did Average HHs.

Sustainable Market Share Index™ : Urbanicity



The more urban the residence, the more likely the purchases of sustainability-marketed products. County A accounted for just under half of the total CPG sustainability-marketed dollars spent.



Chart read as: County A purchased a significantly higher percent (>1.2x) of their Carbonated Beverage purchases on sustainability-marketed products, than did Average HH's.



Early 2021, the NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business will release:

- The full year impact of COVID-19 on sustainability-marketed product purchases.
- The impact of a narrowing price gap between sustainability-marketed products and conventionally-marketed products on volumes as well as a detailed analysis of price elasticity.



The NYU Stern Center for Sustainable Business was founded on the principle that sustainable business is good business; delivering better financial results while protecting the planet and its people. We aim to help current and future business leaders embrace proactive and innovative mainstreaming of sustainability, resulting in competitive advantage and resiliency for their companies as well as a positive impact for society.

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Appendix



Data:

- IRI Point of Sale and HH panel data in all measured channels in U.S. excluding alcohol and tobacco

Selection Criteria:

- 36 categories examined held the largest dollar volume; in a few cases, smaller categories were included to ensure fair representation of all major CPG segments
- 73,293 products reviewed; products with 0.00 dollar share of category were not considered unless identified as organic.
- Due to lack of visibility into private label product claims, private label was not included as sustainability-marketed, with the exception of organic private label in the food categories.

Sustainability-Marketed Products Determination:

- Identified all skus for each category marketed as sustainable with on-package communication, e.g. 3rd party certification (e.g. USDA Organic), containing organic ingredients, no phosphates, no phthalates, etc.
- Sustainability determination focused on the product itself, not the recyclability of the package.
- A very conservative approach was adopted. For example, the following was not considered sustainable:
 - Natural with no other sustainable identification
 - Recyclable packaging

Other Assumptions/Information:

- Products that were deemed sustainability-marketed in 2018 were considered sustainability-marketed in 2015. This likely depressed the growth numbers.
- We made no attempt to assess if products marketed as sustainable were, in fact, sustainable. Instead, we focused on whether the marketing of a product as sustainable would drive purchase.