

## **PriceSmart** Optimizing Customer Satisfaction and Operational Profitability

### About This Report

The Optimizing Customer Satisfaction and Operational Profitability report delves into strategies and insights aimed at enhancing customer experiences and streamlining operations to drive profitability across the retail sector. By aligning with key trends and innovative approaches, businesses can navigate the evolving landscape to achieve sustainable growth and success.

#### Market Landscape

The retail sector experiencing is а transformative shift driven by key trends such as sustainability, personalization, immersive experiences, and digital innovation. Brands increasingly are prioritizing eco-conscious practices, personalized customer interactions, and experiential marketing strategies to meet evolving consumer needs and expectations, setting the stage for a dynamic and competitive marketplace.

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The retail sector's future will be shaped by trends like sustainability, personalization, immersive experiences, and digital Brands innovation. will emphasize advertising eco-conscious practices in strategies and product offerings to meet Furthermore, consumer expectations. strategies will involve humor and celebrity partnerships, with data-driven marketing campaign effectiveness. enhancing As innovation takes center focus, brands will prioritize sensory inclusivity, immersive experiences, and eco-designs, leveraging AI and diversity in design. By 2029, we envision PriceSmart as a leader in retail, excelling in sustainability, personalized shopping experiences, and store design. lts commitment to an omnichannel approach, sustainability, and strategic international expansion will heighten member loyalty and sustained ensure success.

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## One Sheet

### Market Landscape

#### **Opportunity Spaces in Consumer Goods**

- Sustainability in advertising and marketing
- Personalization and customization in marketing
- Immersive retail experiences
- Digital innovation in marketing strategies
- Humor as a branding tool
- Collaborating with celebrities for brand promotion
- Data-driven marketing for improved performance
- Sensory inclusivity in product interaction
- Experiential marketing for emotional connections with consumers
- Incorporation of urban and outdoor elements in retail spaces

- Commitment to sustainability in design and environmental practices

#### Drivers of Change

- Sustainable Packaging Revolution
- Sustainability Partnerships
- Sustainable and Socially Conscious Branding
- Sustainability and Environmentalism in PR and Brand Promotion
- Eco-design
- Data-driven Personalization
- Data-Driven Marketing and Personalization

### PriceSmart Opportunities

#### **Opportunity Areas for PriceSmart**

- Customer satisfaction
- Operations optimization for profitability
- Sustainability
- Personalization
- Seamless shopping experiences
- Wellness-focused offerings
- Innovative store designs
- International expansion
- Data-driven marketing
- Purpose-driven branding

#### Marketing Ideas

- Personalized Marketing Campaigns
- Influencer Collaborations
- Health-Engaged Promotional Promotions

#### **Operations Ideas**

- Implement Sustainable Packaging and Partnerships
- Expand Online Shopping Experience
- Introduce Members-Only Events and Experiences

## COMPANY ANALYSIS

PriceSmart



## **Company Overview**

# PriceSmart

In reviewing PriceSmart, a major player in the membership-based warehouse club sector, key points emerge about its operations and strategic focus. With a substantial operational footprint spanning the United States, Central America, the Caribbean, and Colombia, PriceSmart offers a wide assortment of goods, which includes groceries, electronics, and clothing through its own 'Member's Selection' brand.

Despite a low Corporate Governance Quotient (CGQ), the company remains relentless in its commitment to delivering products that not only emphasize quality and longevity but are also competitively priced. It's this ethos that has enabled PriceSmart to secure a favorable rating from Institutional Shareholder Services.

From a financial perspective, PriceSmart is thriving. The company has successfully bolstered its net merchandise sales, driven up membership accounts, and seen considerable growth in income figures. Moreover, it's refining its omnichannel retail landscape, ramping up its health service sector, and investing in state-of-the-art inventory planning tools, such as RELEX, to maximize operational efficiency.

PriceSmart's ambitious growth plans involve penetrating deeper into both current and potential markets. To achieve this, it's utilizing a comprehensive strategic approach, one that brings together customer trends, a commitment to operational excellence, a focus on sustainability, and a culture of innovation. This multifaceted strategy, underpinned by a strong financial performance and a relentless focus on customer satisfaction, firmly positions PriceSmart as a powerful contender in the retail sector.

In summary, PriceSmart's exceptional focus on customer experience, operational efficiency, and strategic growth places it in a strong position to not just endure but flourish within the highly competitive retail and consumer goods landscape.

"I think overall, the new one is doing pretty much what we thought it would do in sales. The one that was already there which we call Lat America is actually for sales wise better than we thought." - Robert Price, CEO, PriceSmart, Inc.

Industry: Retail

Competitors: Costco Wholesale, Walmart, Sam's Club, Target, BJ's Wholesale Club, Amazon

## **Competitor Review**

Costco Wholesale, Walmart, Sam's Club, Target, BJ's Wholesale Club, and Amazon are key competitors to PriceSmart in the retail industry.

**Costco Wholesale**, like PriceSmart, operates on a membership-based model, offering a wide variety of products at value prices in a warehouse club format. While Costco currently doesn't emphasize sustainability and personalization as significantly, they are a dominant player due to their vast geographical presence and strong customer loyalty.

**Walmart** is a robust competitor to PriceSmart due to its massive scale, expansive product range, and competitive pricing. Walmart's strengths also lie in its solid sustainability initiatives and consistent innovation to meet evolving customer needs. However, unlike PriceSmart, Walmart does not operate on a membership-only model.

**Sam's Club**, a membership-only retail warehouse club owned by Walmart, directly competes with PriceSmart in terms of the business model. It offers a similar product range but holds a more dominant presence in the United States and China.

**Target** is another powerful player in the retail sector, with broad product offerings and a focus on enhancing the shopping experience. Though Target does not operate on a membership model, its commitment to incorporating advanced technology into its operations could be a competitive advantage over PriceSmart.

**BJ's Wholesale Club**, another membership-only warehouse club, presents direct competition to PriceSmart with its approach to value pricing and bulk sales. However, it primarily operates in the eastern United States, limiting its geographical competition with PriceSmart.

**Amazon** stands as a significant competitor due to its global scale, enormous product assortment, and mastery in e-commerce. Its commitment to innovation and customer-centricity sets it apart. However, unlike PriceSmart, Amazon doesn't offer a physical shopping experience which could be a drawback for customers preferring in-store shopping.

In comparison, PriceSmart's focus on personalization, sustainability, seamless shopping experiences, innovative store designs, and international expansion sets it apart as it aligns well with the ongoing retail trends. However, to compete with these industry giants, PriceSmart needs to continuously innovate and emphasize enhancing customer value.

## FUTURE SCENARIOS

Recommendations for PriceSmart



## Sector Forecast

## Retail

The future of the retail industry is expected to significantly evolve, guided by major themes that crisscross consumer trends – sustainability, personalization, immersive experiences, and innovation driven by digital advancements.

Brands will increasingly align their advertising strategies with sustainable and socially conscious practices. This change will be seen in the form of eco-friendly brand promotions, collections, and creating awareness for environmental issues. Brands acting as catalysts for environmental change will foster a strong connection with consumers who value sustainability.

Fusing interactive experiences into marketing strategies will also gain prominence. Brands will use popular cultural events and sports tournaments to create engaging environments that foster a sense of community and brand loyalty amongst consumers.

Humor will be a medium for brands to engage with audiences and differentiate themselves in the market. A playful marketing approach and tongue–in–cheek branding will become an integral part of advertising strategies.

Brands will continue leveraging the appeal of celebrities as brand ambassadors and creative directors. This approach delivers a wider reach and allows brands to build beneficial marketing partnerships. In addition to this, sustainability will become primary in PR and branding, allowing brands to highlight their environmental commitments in sync with consumer expectations.

The importance of data-driven marketing will also grow, helping brands to improve their campaign performances and drive growth. Leveraging customer data will pave the way for more personalized marketing efforts that harmonize with individual consumer preferences.

Juxtaposing several key themes, the process of innovation will take center stage in the retail industry. Brands will create accessible environments catering to sensory inclusivity, helping every individual to interact with their products and enjoy the shopping experience.

Experiential marketing will lead brand strategies, helping them design immersive experiences that resonate with consumers at an emotional level, thereby fostering loyalty. A confluence of urban and outdoor elements in retail spaces will become a trend offering a refreshing shopping experience. Sustainability will also find its way into the innovation process. Brands will commit to eco-designs to reduce their ecological footprint, contributing to a more sustainable future.

Creative exploration with AI and technology will add a new dimension to innovation in the retail industry, catering to the overall enhancement of consumer experience. Finally, the spotlight will be on diversity and creativity in art and design as a trend fostering innovation. Brands will explore diverse perspectives and unconventional ideas, creating a vibrant and dynamic ambiance driving innovation in the retail sector.

# 2029 Vision clolo PriceSmart Dovelspal

## Exustainaba

By 2029, PriceSmart, continuing its trajectory as a trailblazer in the retail sector, will be hailed for creating a unique and unbeatable customer shopping experience. Our seamlessly integrated online and offline shopping platforms are designed to ensure access to high-quality, competitively priced products at the click of a button or through a satisfying, personalized in-store experience.

Health-conscious and eco-friendly products fill our carefully curated collections, responding to growing customer demands for responsible consumerism. We are at the forefront of sustainability in retail, with every aspect of our operations, from packaging to partnerships, reflecting our commitment to preserving the environment.

Our international presence has also grown dramatically, with our brand becoming a household name in new markets across the globe. Locally-adapted collections and tailored experiences have endeared us to new customer segments, boosting our international reputation.

Through our embrace of big data, we have revolutionized marketing within the industry. Our campaigns are targeted, effective, and resonant, promoting our purpose-driven brand and firmly embedding it in consumers' minds.

Internally, our operations optimize every aspect of the business, maximizing profitability and ensuring we remain resilient and robust, whatever the economic climate. Our collaboration with leading tech firms like RELEX means that our inventory planning is state-of-the-art, minimizing waste and maximizing efficiency.

Finally, our member-focused approach means customer satisfaction remains our primary driver. The satisfaction of our ever-growing membership base is the cornerstone of our success, reflected in every strategy, every product, and every store design.

In 2029, PriceSmart stands as a beacon of retail excellence, a harmonious blend of customer focus, operational efficiency, innovation, and international growth.

ision based on PriceSmart achieving this objective: The objective is to enhance customer optimize operations to drive profitabilit

### Marketing ideas

1. Personalized Marketing Campaigns: Develop data-driven marketing strategies that leverage insights from our comprehensive customer data analytics to deliver highly personalized and targeted campaigns. This approach ensures that every communication and promotion resonates with the specific needs and preferences of our diverse customer base, enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty.

2. Influencer Collaborations: Forge partnerships with influencers and thought leaders in the wellness and sustainability space to promote our health-conscious and eco-friendly collections. By leveraging their expertise and reach, we can engage with new audiences and position PriceSmart as a trusted and innovative retail brand that aligns with their values and lifestyle aspirations.

Health-engaged promotional promotions: In line with our commitment to offering health-conscious products, deploy in-store and online health awareness activities such as wellness events, free health screenings, and workshops on healthy living. These initiatives help position PriceSmart as more than just a retailer, but also as a wellness-focused community hub for customers to engage and learn.

# PriceSmart

1. Implement Sustainable Packaging and Partnerships: PriceSmart could further enhance its commitment to sustainability by implementing eco-friendly packaging for its products. This could involve using biodegradable materials and encouraging customers to bring their own reusable bags. Additionally, the company could form partnerships with environmentally-conscious suppliers and manufacturers to ensure its products align with its sustainability goals.

2. Expand Online Shopping Experience: In order to meet the growing demand for online shopping, PriceSmart could expand its online platform to include more products and services. This could include a user-friendly website and app, as well as streamlined delivery and pick-up options. The company could also offer personalized recommendations and virtual shopping assistance to enhance the online shopping experience for customers.

3. Introduce Members-Only Events and Experiences: As a way to further engage and reward its loyal membership base, PriceSmart could introduce exclusive events and experiences for members. This could include health and wellness workshops, eco-friendly cooking classes, or product demos and tastings. These events would not only add value for members, but also reinforce PriceSmart's commitment to health-conscious and eco-friendly products.

## Road Map

# PriceSmart

1. Develop and implement a comprehensive omnichannel strategy that seamlessly integrates our online and offline platforms to provide customers with a unified and convenient shopping experience.

2. Continuously curate and expand our product offerings, prioritizing health-conscious and eco-friendly options to meet the growing demand for sustainable and responsible consumer choices.

3. Strengthen and expand our international presence by establishing strategic partnerships and adapting our collections and experiences to resonate with local markets.

4. Conduct in-depth market research and leverage big data analytics to gain actionable insights and better understand customer behavior, enabling us to create targeted, effective, and resonant marketing campaigns that promote our purpose-driven brand.

5. Invest in technology and supply chain optimization tools, like collaboration with leading tech firms or adopting state-of-the-art inventory management systems, to improve operational efficiency, minimize waste, and maximize profitability.

6. Foster a customer-centric culture internally by making customer satisfaction the driving force behind every strategy, product development, and store design decision.

7. Cultivate a strong employee training and development program to empower our team to deliver exceptional customer service and personalized experiences that go above and beyond expectations.

8. Strengthen our sustainability initiatives by evaluating and optimizing every aspect of our operations, from packaging to partnerships, to ensure ethical and environmentally-friendly practices are embedded in our business practices.

9. Embrace innovation by fostering a culture of continuous improvement, encouraging cross-functional collaborations, and actively seeking out new tech trends or disruptive ideas that can enhance our offering, operations, or customer experiences.

10. Nurture strategic alliances with suppliers and vendors who share our commitment to sustainability and customer satisfaction, fostering long-term partnerships that can support our future growth and contribute to our competitive advantage.

RoadMap is a list of jobs-to-be-done for the PriceSmart team to achieve the Vision based on this objective: The objective is to enhance customer satisfaction and optimize operations to drive profitability.

## INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

Consumer Goods / {{Sector2}}



## **Consumer Goods**

### **Industry Overview**

In this modern retail atmosphere, consumer goods companies are demonstrating their adaptability with varying levels of success. Unfolding across this industry, there is rising demand for brands that stress the promise of superior value and quality. It's clear that staying responsive to consumer trends and nurturing customer loyalty through tailored engagement has become a determining factor for growth.

Attempting to keep up with the wave of online consumer behavior, many companies are throwing significant resources towards progressive digital ventures. These measures speak to the reality of our technology-driven consumer climate and hold substantial merit in future-proofing business performance.

Product innovation is another watchdog on the forefront, enabling these companies to roll with the punches brought on by ever-shifting market trends and capricious consumer preferences. This certainly throws some validity behind the comeback stories touted by several brands within this industry.

Investments aimed squarely at technological advancements are claiming the limelight when shaping projected growth trajectories. Paired with an unwavering focus on customer satisfaction, this disciplined market strategy demonstrates how intrepid companies are maintaining their inner stride. In this gusto-filled retail landscape, businesses of remarkable resilience are laying plans for sustained growth amid unprecedented planetary shifts.

"While challenges remain in our distribution channels in the U.S. and Europe, we are focused on partnering with our customers to help them expand their business, build consumer demand, and increase market share across our brands." - Sean Connolly, CEO, Conagra Brands



Rimowa and La Marzocco's collaborative espresso machine showcases the power of brand partnerships in the luxury market and is available at a pop-up cafe in Milan. END END

## Sector Analysis

## {{Sector2}}

## Sector Overview

{{SECTORDESCRIPTION}}

### **Segments**

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{{ListOfSegmenta}}

## **Sector Financials**

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## MARKET TRENDS

Consumer Goods / Advertising & Branding / Innovation



## **Consumer Goods Trends**

The consumer goods industry is undergoing a significant transformation driven by higher level themes. Sustainability is a key focus, as brands shift towards eco-friendly packaging and form partnerships to promote a circular economy. Personalization is another prominent trend, with brands leveraging consumer data and technology to deliver tailored experiences. Seamless integration of online and offline channels is creating a unified shopping experience for customers. Wellness integration is on the rise, addressing the growing demand for health-conscious and holistic products. In addition, there is a strong emphasis on innovative store designs and curated collections, enhancing the overall retail experience. Brands are also expanding their global presence, adapting to local preferences and cultures. These higher level themes reflect the industry's commitment to sustainability, personalized experiences, seamless shopping, wellness, innovative retail experiences, curated collections, and global market expansion.

People today are increasingly looking for convenience and authenticity when deciding what to buy. A notable 34% of UK shoppers express frustrations and barriers due to checkout friction, reflecting a high demand for streamlined and efficient purchasing processes. There's also a growing aversion for celebrity or influencer-backed purchases, with a quarter of consumers being dissuaded by such endorsements, suggesting that people value genuineness and personal relevance more in their buying decisions.

Moreover, consumer activity suggests a market shift towards sustainability and economic flexibility. An emerging interest in purchasing electric vehicles indicates a rising preference for eco-friendly and sustainable products. The proliferation of "buy now, pay later" methods in the US signifies a trend towards more flexible financing solutions. Additionally, varying consumer spending, particularly towards dining out and healthcare, indicates changing preferences impacting different sectors and overall economic growth.

• No additional data is available.//////

"As I said in the prepared remarks, things unfolded very much in line with what we expected. And as you heard us say, our investments in frozen have driven a nearly 7-point swing in our scanner volume from Q1 to the most recent 4 weeks..." - Sean Connolly, CEO, Conagra Brands

Wow Bao's restaurant chain has integrated brand collaborations with a Roblox experience to drive customer engagement and brand awareness. END



## Advertising & Branding Trends

Prominent advertising and branding trends reflect the importance of sustainable practices, audience engagement, and strategic partnerships. Brands are embracing sustainability and social consciousness in their branding efforts, incorporating them into fashion collections and PR initiatives. They are also engaging fans through tournaments and events, creating interactive experiences that align with the growing popularity of sports. Playful and tongue-in-cheek marketing strategies are being adopted to resonate with audiences and create memorable brand experiences. Brands are leveraging the influence of celebrities as creative directors and brand ambassadors, forging strategic partnerships. Data-driven marketing and personalization are driving campaign performance and enabling targeted messaging. These higher-level themes emphasize the significance of purpose-driven branding, audience connection, and strategic collaborations in effective advertising and branding practices. By embracing these themes, businesses can create meaningful brand experiences, attract consumer loyalty, and drive success in the evolving advertising landscape.

Consumers today desire authenticity and originality, with an increasing trend of valuing personal reviews and recommendations from trusted sources over celebrity-focused marketing tactics. This reveals a deepening need for brands to produce genuine, tailor-made content that resonates with their audience's specific interests and needs. The growing influence of digital advertising signifies a shift in patron behavior, particularly among younger generations, towards an increased dependence and preference for digital platforms in making their buying decisions. Moreover, demographics such as older shoppers and high-spending consumers prioritize product quality and substantial value over brand popularity, casting doubts on the effectiveness of celebrity endorsements within these groups. Thus, personalized marketing and authenticity seem to be seminal in contemporary consumer desires and behaviors.

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• No additional data is available.

"We have the best advertiser technology in the streaming business globally and we have just introduced new tools that will make this an even more attractive platform for advertisers, much as we've done with Hulu." - Robert A. Iger, CEO, The Walt Disney Company



## **Innovation Trends**

Prominent trends in creativity, experience, and innovation can be grouped into several higher-level themes. The first theme revolves around creating inclusive experiences through sensory inclusivity and promoting diversity in art and design. The second theme highlights the importance of experiential marketing and unique consumer engagement, while the third theme focuses on seamlessly blending urban and outdoor elements in retail and design. The fourth theme explores the innovative integration of AI and technology, while the fifth theme emphasizes sustainability and eco-design practices. These higher-level themes capture the broader shifts in creativity, experience, and innovation, reflecting the industry's commitment to inclusivity, immersive marketing, harmonious environments, tech integration, and sustainable practices. Business leaders can leverage these themes to enhance customer experiences, drive innovation, and contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Employees today want a workplace that values creativity and innovation, seeing these as essential skills for future success. This shift in workforce expectations has led businesses to prioritize promoting creativity among their employees, resulting in a 17% increase in revenue growth compared to industry peers. Additionally, employees with diversified experiences are now seen as valuable contributors to fostering innovative ideas.

Consumers are placing increasing importance on customer experience, driving business success to new heights. Companies that excel in this area are experiencing 5.1 times higher growth. This consumer demand drives companies to innovate, with those managing to do so witnessing a 9% higher revenue growth than their less innovative counterparts. Recognizing this, executives are emphasizing innovation as a key factor in achieving growth and long-term success for their companies.

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• No additional data is available.

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"While challenges remain in our distribution channels in the U.S. and Europe, we are focused on partnering with our customers to help them expand their business, build consumer demand, and increase market share across our brands." - Sean Connolly, CEO, Conagra Brands



## **PriceSmart** Optimizing Customer Satisfaction and Operational Profitability

# APPENDIX

## <u>PSFK REPORTS</u>

These reports provide members of our **PSFK IQ** service a level of insights for every major industry and at each stage of the customer journey. They are produced by our researchers using a mix of Al-research tools and bespoke proprietary databases.

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Version Date: April 10 2024

