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# The Changing Face of the Convenience Shopper

*Leroy Kelsey - NACS*

#SOIsummit

NACS

State of the Industry  
Summit

# Four Convenience Shopper Trends that Will Drive Growth in 2022



**Digital Influences Every Stage of the Customer Journey**



**Shoppers Pick “Winners” and “Losers” in the Face of Inflation**



**Communicating Value Will Start Before the Shop**

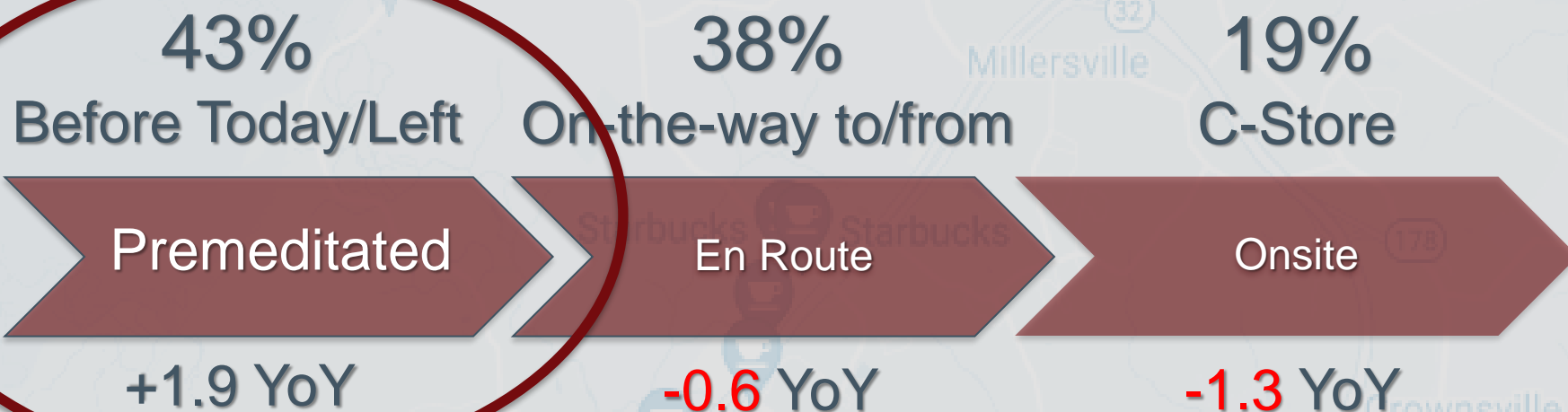


**Elevated Expectations at Every Interaction**

A hand is shown at the bottom, holding a glowing digital interface. The interface is composed of various icons and elements: a smartphone with a home screen, a home icon, a shopping cart, a chat bubble, a globe, a camera, a person silhouette, a Wi-Fi symbol, a gear, and a laptop. These elements are interconnected by a network of glowing lines and dots, suggesting a digital ecosystem. The background is dark and blue, with a faint map of the world visible. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and high-tech.

**Digital influences every stage of customer journey**

## Where/when do shoppers decide to purchase?

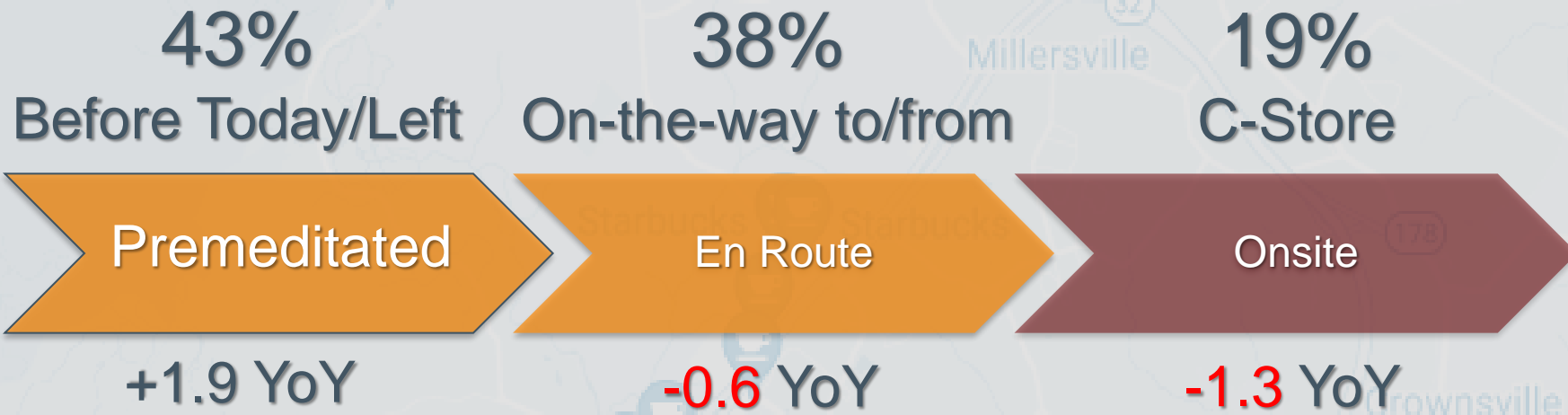


♥ U, NEED YOU (Essential Biz)



# Digital will **Extend** the Retail **Runway**

*Relationship Building Will Extend Well Beyond Four Walls*



*Where/when do shoppers decide to purchase?*

19%

C-Shoppers **used digital search** for products/services to **select C-Store**

79%

of digital devices used **were mobiles**

## Digital will **Extend** the Retail **Runway**

*Relationship Building Will Extend Well Beyond Four Walls*



*Where/when do shoppers decide to purchase?*

# The Pandemic has Democratized Digital Influence Across Generations

C-Store Selection by Digital Device by Generation

Digital Device Used	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	All
Voice activated car navigation system	3%	5%	4%	0%	4%
Car navigation system	10%	7%	9%	18%	8%
Mobile	72%	81%	81%	69%	79%
Tablet	3%	2%	4%	0%	2%
Laptop	8%	4%	2%	6%	5%
Desktop	4%	1%	0%	4%	2%
Other	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%

Shoppers (19%) that used digital search to select a C-Store by digital device by generation

Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021, n=7,150

# Unlock Growth Opportunities with Purposeful Placements Along the Journey

Boomer Purchase Decision

39%  
En Route

## Store Selection by Digital Device by Generation

Digital Device Used	Gen Z	Millennials	Gen X	Boomers	All
Voice activated car navigation system	3%	5%	4%	0%	4%
Car navigation system	10%	7%	9%	18%	8%
Mobile	72%	81%	81%	69%	79%
Tablet	3%	2%	4%	0%	2%
Laptop	8%	4%	2%	6%	5%
Desktop	4%	1%	0%	4%	2%
Other	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%

*Shoppers (19%) that used digital search to select a C-Store by digital device by generation*

*Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021*



**Shoppers Pick “Winners” and “Losers” in the Face of Inflation**

# Pandemic Leads to Subscription-everything Culture

Time For A Quick Poll!

4

Prime Gold Pass  
Netflix  
Subscriptions in  
Average HH in 2016

Spotify

DashPass

Prime Gold Pass

8

Subscriptions in  
Average HH in 2021

11

Subscriptions in  
Average HH in 2021 Where  
Head of HH is 18-34 Years

48%

of C-Shoppers

18-34 w/ E-com Subscriptions

Source: Bloomberg.com, U.S. Households Streaming Services  
Doubled, NACS Convenience Voices 2021

# E-commerce Membership Retreats for the First Time in 5 Years

*2020 = 'Big Pause'*  
*Has E-commerce membership growth paused?*



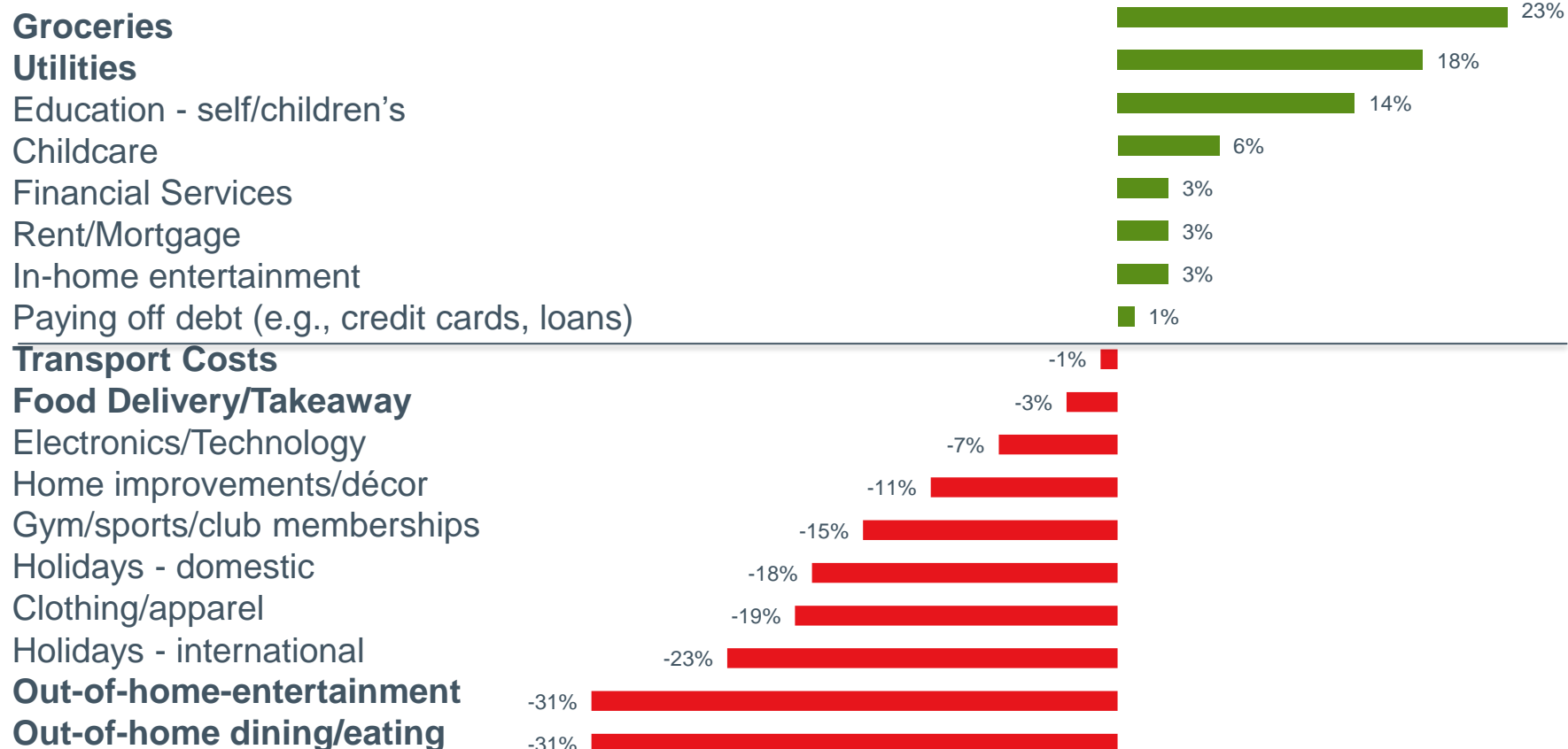
*Are you a member of an e-commerce service?*

*Source: NACS Convenience Tracking program 2017-2019, NACS Convenience Voices 2020-2021, n = 14,300*

# Consumers Intend to Spend Less Out of Home in 2022

## Is Your 2022 Strategy Above or Below the Line?

Spending Intentions for the Next 12 Months

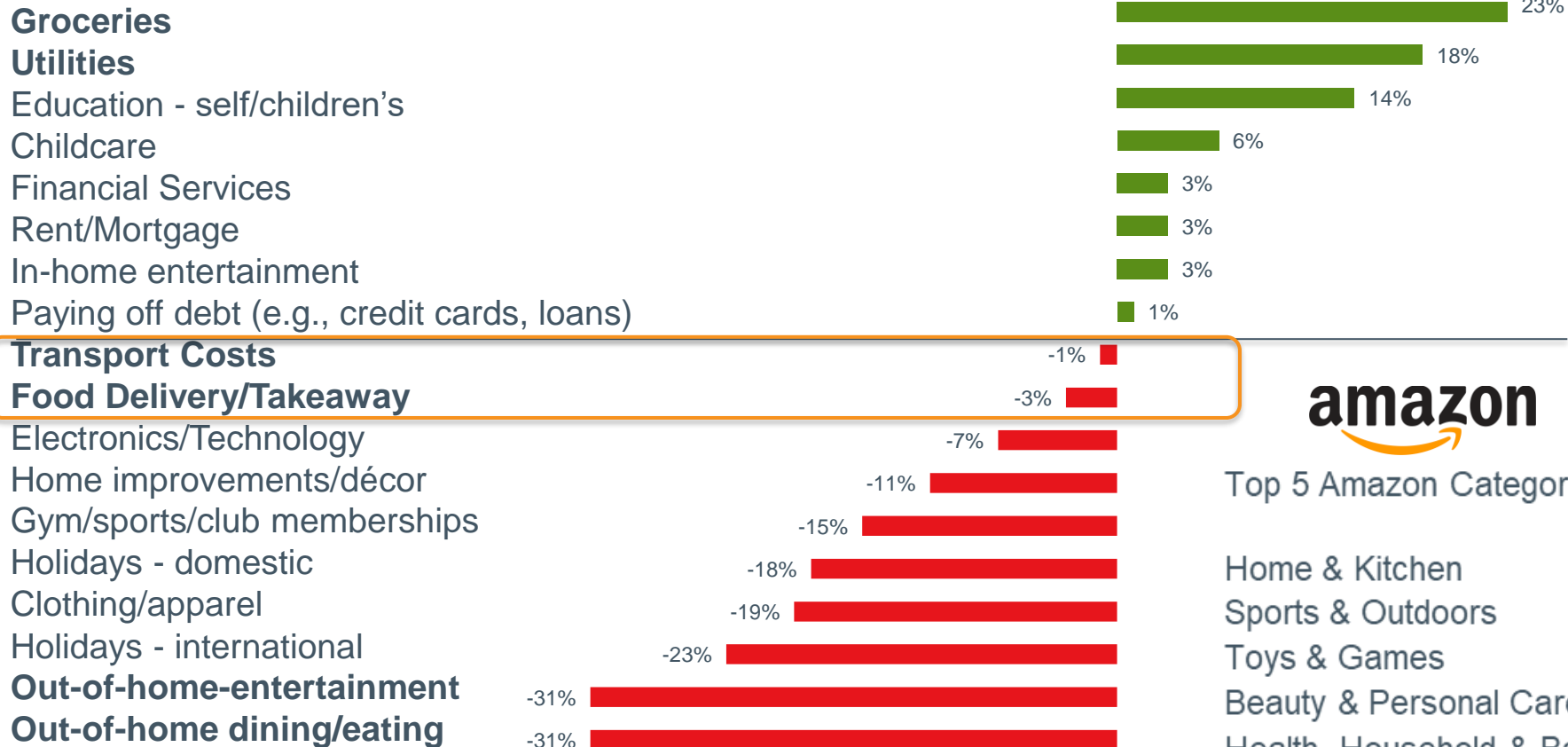


Source: NielsenIQ Consumer Outlook 2022 Survey, Dec 2021

# Consumers Intend to Spend Less Out of Home in 2022

Is Your 2022 Strategy Above or Below the Line?

Spending Intentions for the Next 12 Months



**amazon**

Top 5 Amazon Categories

Home & Kitchen	40%
Sports & Outdoors	21%
Toys & Games	19%
Beauty & Personal Care	19%
Health, Household & Baby Care	18%

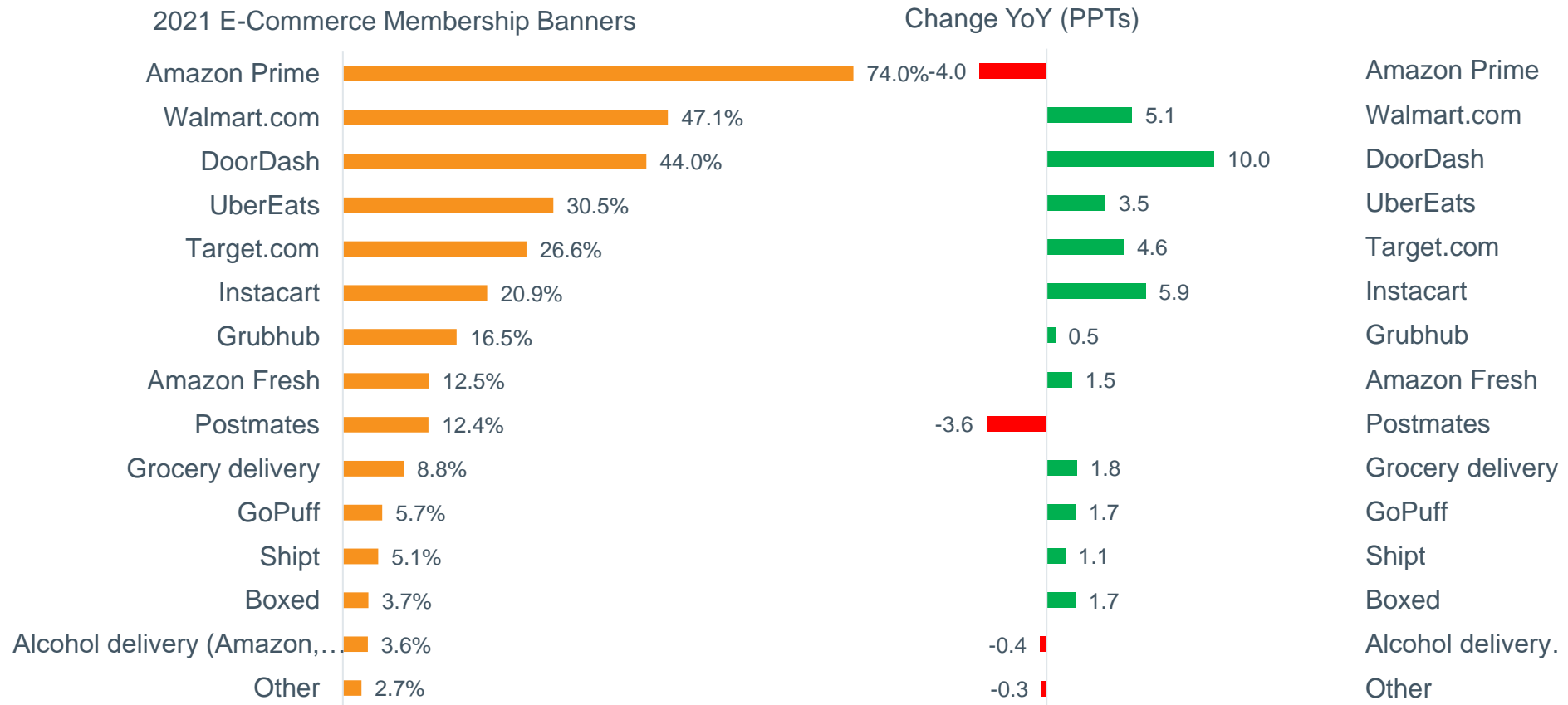
*Emerging Fresh;  
Core Business  
Below the Line*

**The Crème  
de La Crème  
Of Boarder  
Categories  
Will Cross  
Cross the  
Line**

Source: NielsenIQ

# C-Shoppers Rationalizing Premiums; Picking “Winners” and “Losers” for ‘22 and Beyond

*Anxious C-Shoppers redirect limited resources and engagement to preferred service providers*



*Of which E-Commerce services(s) are you a member?*

*Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2020-2021, n=14,322*

# Retailers Lean Into Subscription Models to Hurdle Premiums, Drive Share and Increase Incremental Value

## *Car Wash*



**Reduces Cost to Acquire Customers and Streamlines Sales Forecasting**

## *Delivery*



**Makes Upselling, Cross-Selling and Basket-building Easier**

## *Fuel*



**Builds Loyalty and Makes Revenue Predictable**



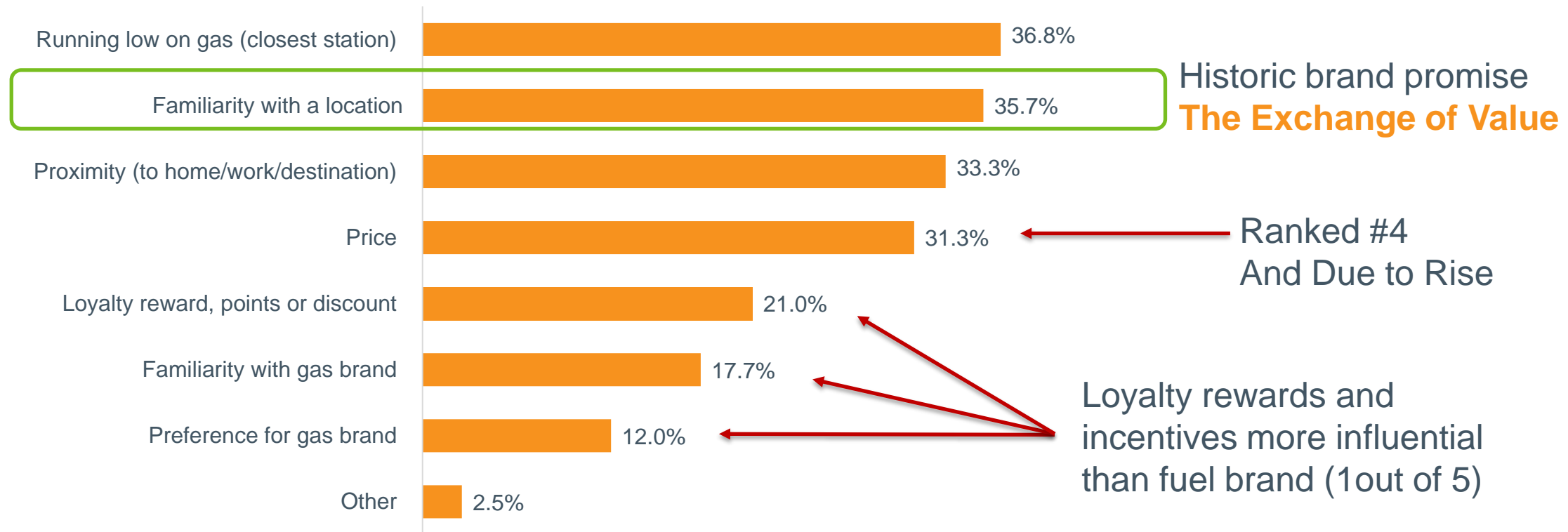
**31%**

Fuel Only customers  
selected a site based on  
price **ALONE**

**The Search For Value Starts Before the Shop**

# Yet, Past Experience had More Influence on Site Selection than Price Alone

Why did you select this location to buy fuel today? (Fuel Only)



Why did you select this location to buy fuel today? Fuel Only

Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021, Fuel Only Survey n = 1870

# The New Battleground

Regular

Plus

V-Power

PRICE PER GALLON \$

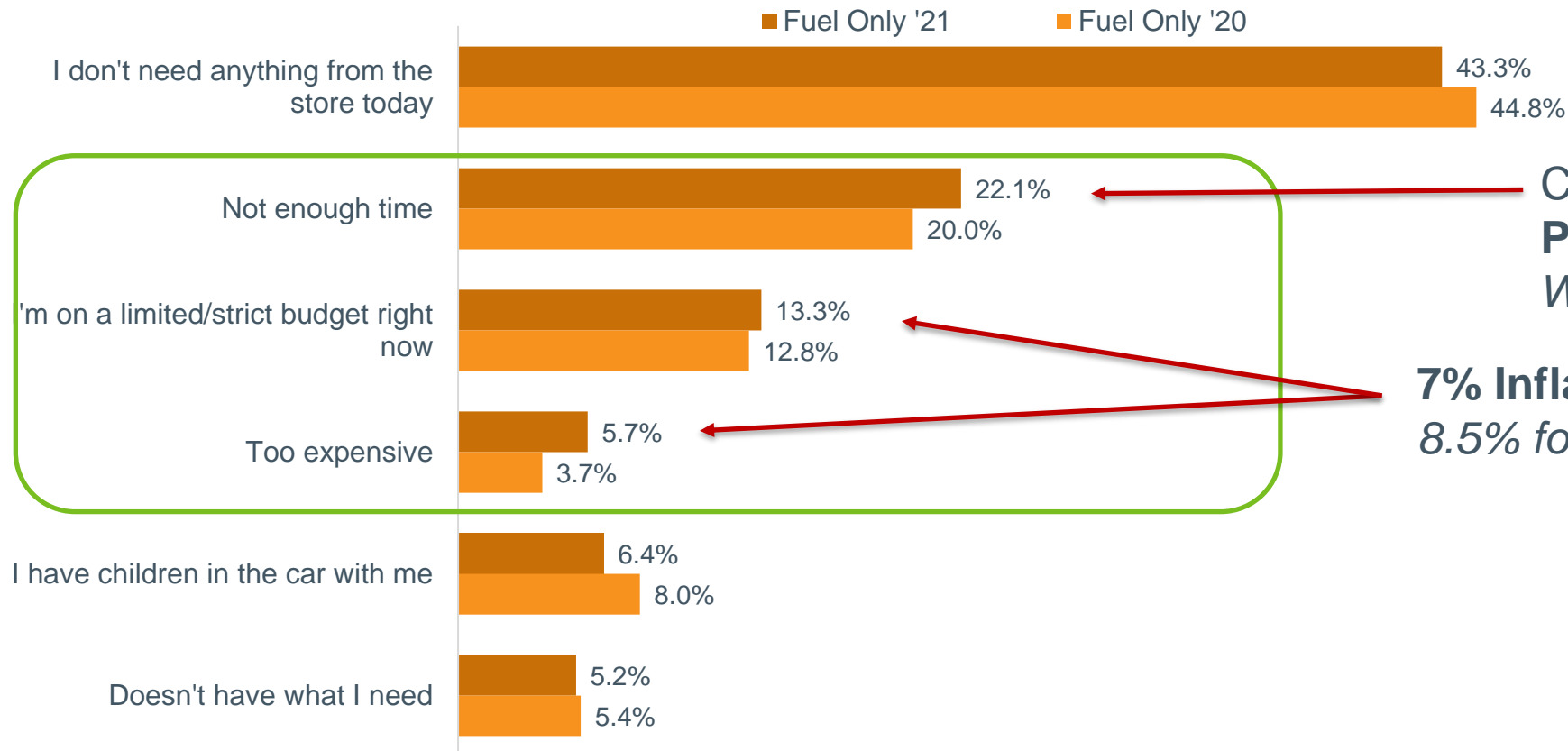
PRICE PER GALLON \$

89

MINIMUM OCTANE RATING  
(R + M)/2 METHOD

# What Happened?: Time Crunch and Rising Prices are Leading Fuel Customers to Opt Out of In-store Shopping

Why didn't you buy products at this store today?



Commuter Atrophy  
**Pre-pandemic 26%**  
*We're heading there!*

**7% Inflation** is a Blunt Instrument!  
*8.5% for March Announced Today!*

Why didn't you buy products at {LOCATION} today?  
What Convenience products do you typically buy? Fuel Only  
Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021, Fuel Only, n = 1870

# Strategies that Lead to Battle-Wins

## Optimize Their Time



**No Time:** 19% of Shoppers Indicate Curbside Influenced Site Selection, 26% interested in Drive-Thru at Current Location

*Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021*

## Customize Promos



**Limited Budget:** 30% of Shoppers Noticed a Promotion While Visiting, 15% of Noticed Promotions were Received Via Mobile

## Offer Value Brands



**Too Expensive:** 71% of C-Shoppers were Likely to Purchase Store Brands at Current Location

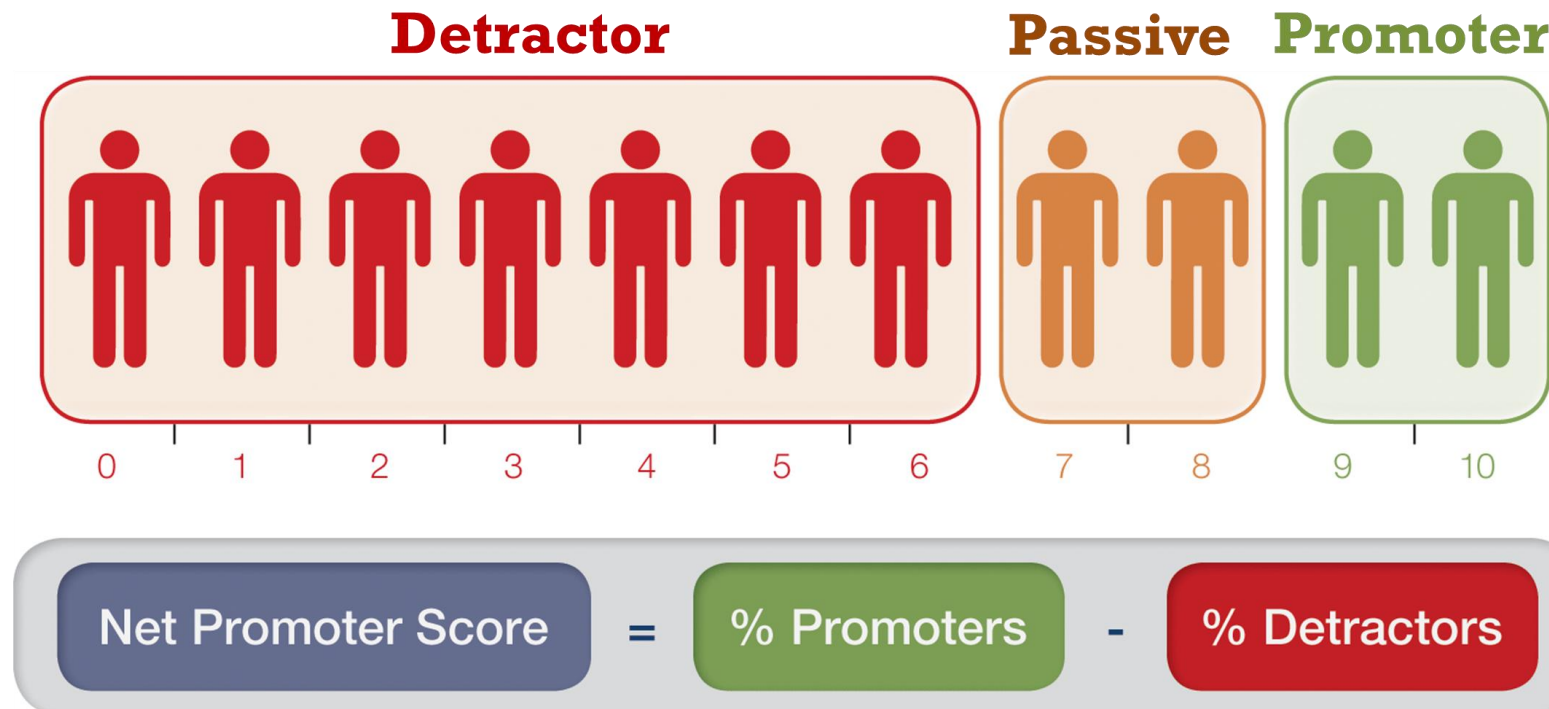


**Elevated Expectations at Every Interaction**

# Optimizing Customer Experiences is Key to Gain Share and Grow In-Store Sales

## Net Promoter Score % Basics

How likely are you to recommend to friend or family member? (0 Unlikely - 10 Likely)



# NPS Slips Below 50 Despite Strong Industry Sales

46

2021 National  
Convenience NPS

*How likely are you to recommend this convenience chain to a friend or family member? (0 Extremely Unlikely to 10 Extremely Likely)*

*Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021*



# Not for Lack of Effort

# Kicking Into the Wind

## Headwinds

COVID-19

Demand Destruction

Inflation

Labor Shortages

Supply Chain Disruption

Geopolitical Instability

Inclement Weather



# Kicking Into the Wind Requires Calibration

## Headwinds

COVID-19

Demand Destruction

Inflation

Labor Shortages

Supply Chain Disruption

Geopolitical Instability

Inclement Weather

# So Many Missions, Where Do We Start?

Mission/Need State	% of Shoppers	Chg YoY (PPTs)	NPS 21'
Thirsty now (drink)	46.3%	-0.9	48.5
Hungry now (snack)	32.9%	-0.6	50.1
My treat/indulgent	16.4%	-1.3	52.1
Store services (lottery, car wash, etc.)	15.2%	0.6	43.5
Specific urgent need	17.0%	0.6	43.8
Multiple throughout day	11.0%	-1.6	46.4
Restroom	17.3%	1.7	44.0
Meal for now (hot/cold)	12.4%	-0.5	50.1
Gathering of friends/family	4.6%	-2.2	35.3
Meal to take home/away (hot/cold)	9.0%	-1.6	59.9
Fill in a few items	5.6%	0.2	39.2
Stock up	5.9%	0.3	50.6
Find something new and interesting	7.1%	1.7	42.1
All Occasions (Total Sample)	100%	-10.2	44.5

Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021

# Start With Missions Below the Overall Average

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Growth is Coming From @Home Consumption Giving Way to Mobility and Utility On-the-way”

Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021

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Growth ≈ Below Average Missions  
**Mind the Gap!**

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Growth is Coming From @Home Consumption Giving Way to Mobility and Utility On-the-way”

Growth ≈ Below Average Missions  
**Mind the Gap!**

Re-Focus on the Fundamentals  
**Foundation Before Differentiation!**

Source: NACS Convenience Voices 2021

# The Experience Drumbeat!

## Its All About the 3 C's

1. Consistency
2. Consistency
3. See Number 1



# Takeaways



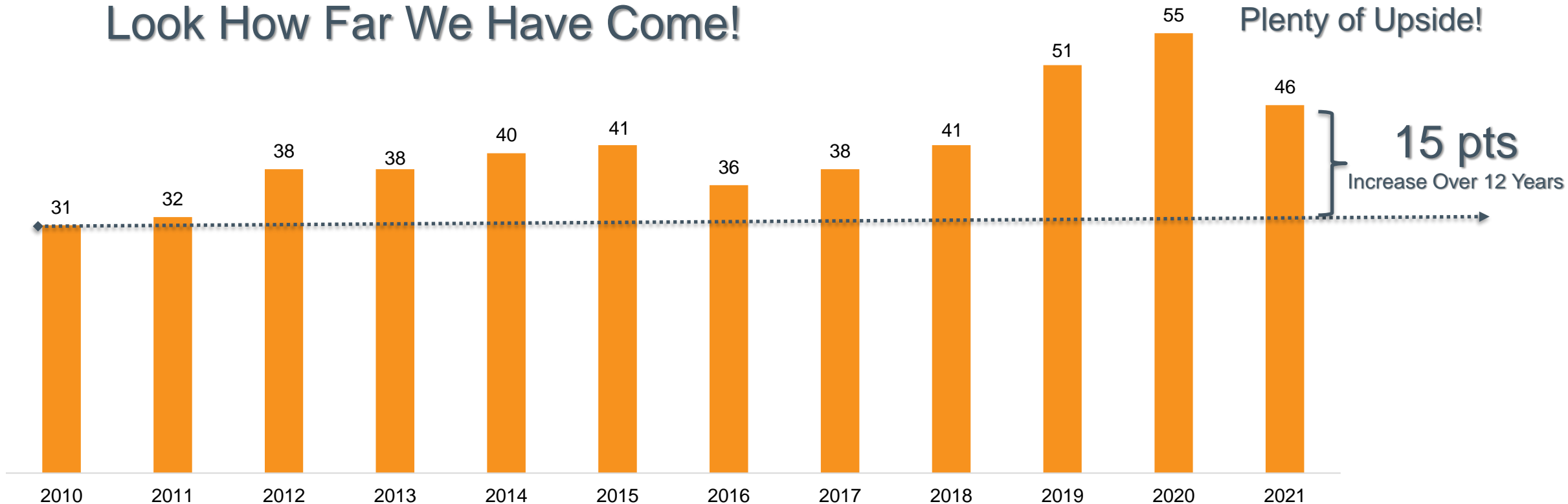
- **Digital will** continue to **influence** every stage of the **customer journey** – a fully integrated **loyalty and digital** platform is **not optional**
- **Shoppers rationalizing** discretionary **expenses**; Picking “**Winners**” and “**Losers**” from service providers—**subscription models** offer a promising but developing **solution**
- **Value** has taken on a much **greater importance** in the face of inflation and economic uncertainty
- Access to **shopper consideration set** **requires** commitment to **exceeding expectations** at every interaction

# Convenience NPS Up 47% Over Past 12 Years

The Profile of the Shopping Experience Continues to Rise Despite Short-term Setbacks

Look How Far We Have Come!

**Lesson From 2020:**  
Plenty of Upside!



*How likely are you to recommend this convenience chain to a friend or family member? (0 Extremely Unlikely to 10 Extremely Likely)*

*Source: NACS Convenience Tracking Program (CTP) 2010-2019, n= 196,442, Convenience Voices (CV) 2020 to 2021, n =14,324*

**NACS**

# State of the Industry Summit

**April 12-14, 2022**

Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago, Rosemont, IL

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FUTURE.**



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