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research now

Packaged-food companies are hoping the U.S. comes down with a serious case of the munchies. At least, we can assume that's the idea given the amount of growth packaged-food companies hope to see from their snacks businesses. (STAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE: [Follow Kapitall on Twitter](#))

[MarketWatch](#) reports packaged-food companies plan to “capitalize on American consumers who continue to snack more throughout the day.” They also expect to see growth from developing markets, which have more women entering the workforce – target munchers.

Gary Stibel, chief executive of the New England Consulting Group tells [MarketWatch](#) people are busier than they used to be, and the trend is growing. As a result, “you and I will continue to snack more and sit down to a meal less.”

So how much growth are we talking about? The roughly \$560 billion snack market hopes to see higher demand, increase prices, and toll out with new snack products. Possibilities seem limitless.

“There’s plenty of room” for growth for all the smaller and larger players in the field. “The global market’s very fragmented,” said Lee Linthicum, [Euromonitor](#)’s head of global food research.

Business Section: Investing Ideas

Will the fast-paced lifestyle give rise to higher snack-food demand?

If so, here are some key players that may benefit from the trend:

Use the Turbo Chart to Compare the Performance of the First Two Companies in the List to the S&P

500:



See Full Screen

1 day 5 days 1 mo. 3 mo. 6 mo. 1 yr. 3 yr. 5 yr. 10 yr.

MARCH 21, 2011 MARCH 19, 2012

SPDR S&P 500 ETF

Stock Price Close **\$140.30**

ConAgra Foods Inc

Stock Price Close **\$26.43**

General Mills Inc

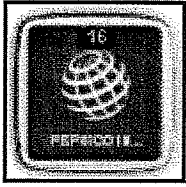
Stock Price Close **\$38.83**



1. **ConAgra Foods, Inc.** ([CAG](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Operates as a food company primarily in North America.



2. **General Mills, Inc.** ([GIS](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Manufactures and markets branded consumer foods worldwide.



3. **PepsiCo, Inc.** ([PEP](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Engages in the manufacture, marketing, and sale of foods, snacks, and carbonated and non-carbonated beverages worldwide.



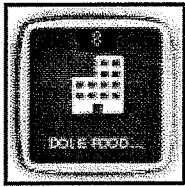
4. **Kraft Foods Inc.** ([KFT](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Together with its subsidiaries, manufactures and markets packaged food products worldwide.



5. **Kellogg Company** ([K](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): And its subsidiaries manufacture and market ready-to-eat cereal and convenience food products primarily in North America, Europe, Latin America, and the Asia Pacific.



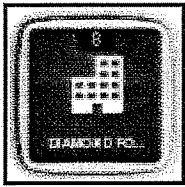
6. **Hershey Co.** ([HSY](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Engages in manufacturing, marketing, selling, and distributing various chocolate and confectionery products, pantry items, and gum and mint refreshment products worldwide.



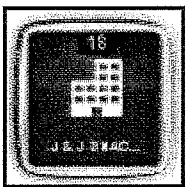
7. **Dole Food Company Inc.** ([DOLE](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Engages in sourcing, growing, processing, marketing, and distributing fresh fruits and vegetables, and food products to wholesale, retail, and institutional customers worldwide.



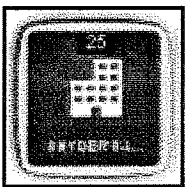
8. **Chiquita Brands International Inc.** ([CQB](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Engages in the distribution and marketing of bananas and fresh produce under the Chiquita and other brand names worldwide.



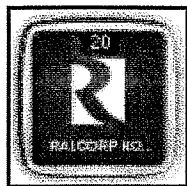
9. **Diamond Foods, Inc.** ([DMND](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Engages in processing, marketing, and distributing snack products, as well as culinary, in-shell, and ingredient nuts.



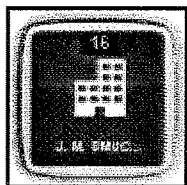
10. **J&J Snack Foods Corp.** ([JJSF](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Together with its subsidiaries, manufactures nutritional snack foods, as well as distributes frozen beverages to the food service and retail supermarket industries in the United States, Mexico, and Canada.



11. **Snyder's-Lance, Inc.** ([LNCE](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Engages in the manufacture, marketing, and distribution of various snack food products.



12. Ralcorp Holdings Inc. ([RAH](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Provides various food products and ready-to-eat cereal products.



13. The J. M. Smucker Company ([SJM](#), [Earnings](#), [Analysts](#), [Financials](#)): Engages in the manufacture and marketing of branded food products in the United States and internationally.

(Written by Rebecca Lipman.)

Use Kapitall's Tools: Looking for ways to analyze this list?

Use this article snapshot as a launch pad ([click here for help](#)): Simply click on the links, and use Kapitall's tab navigation to browse through the data...

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- [Compare analyst ratings to annual returns](#) for stocks mentioned
- Real-Time Opinion: [Scan the latest tweets about these companies](#) (feed will open in a new window)

Dig Deeper: Access Company Snapshots, Charts, Filings

- ConAgra Foods, Inc. ([CAG](#), [Chart](#), [Download SEC Filings](#))
- General Mills, Inc. ([GIS](#), [Chart](#), [Download SEC Filings](#))
- Pepsico, Inc. ([PEP](#), [Chart](#), [Download SEC Filings](#))
- Kraft Foods Inc. ([KFT](#), [Chart](#), [Download SEC Filings](#))