



**THE MARKET**

Dining out has always been a popular social activity. These days, eating away from home is a part of everyday life that many people take for granted. However, meals in restaurants were once only an occasional indulgence enjoyed by a privileged few.

The popular food service revolution of the last 50 years changed all that. Today, dining out is a social activity enjoyed every day throughout the world by people of all ages and backgrounds. In fact, 16 percent of all meals in the United States are eaten away from home. For McDonald's, this little bit of sociology translates into 22 million customers every day across the nation.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

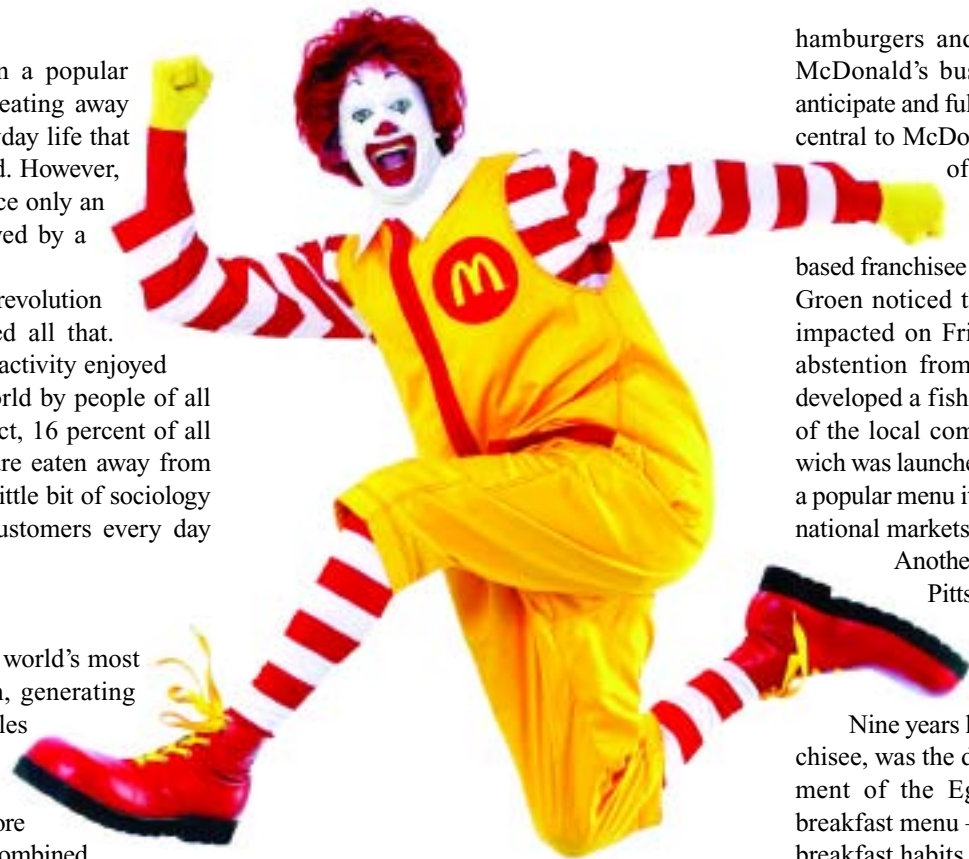
McDonald's has become the world's most extensive retail organization, generating some \$40 billion in annual sales from more than 30,000 restaurants worldwide. Its market share in the United States is more than its next two competitors combined. Internationally, McDonald's represents 50 percent of all globally branded outlets and captures more than two-thirds of those sales.

**HISTORY**

The McDonald's story began half a century ago in San Bernardino, California. Ray Kroc was a salesman supplying milkshake multi-mixers to a



drive-in restaurant run by two brothers, Dick and Mac McDonald. Kroc, calculating from his own figures that the restaurant must be selling over 2,000 milkshakes a month, was intrigued to know more about the secret behind the success of the brothers' thriving business. He visited the restaurant, which promised its customers "Speedee Service" and watched in awe as restaurant staff filled orders for 15-cent hamburgers with fries and shakes every 15 seconds. Kroc saw the massive potential and



decided to become involved. The McDonald brothers accepted Kroc's offer to become their national franchising agent. On April 15, 1955, he opened his first McDonald's restaurant in Des Plaines, Illinois, a suburb just north of Chicago.

Rapid growth followed. McDonald's served more than 100 million hamburgers within its first three years, and the 100th McDonald's restaurant opened in 1959. In 1961, Kroc paid \$2.7 million to buy out the McDonald brothers' interest, and in 1963 the billionth McDonald's hamburger was served live on prime-time TV.

The brand proved equally popular outside the United States. McDonald's quickly established successful international markets in Canada, Japan, Australia, and Germany. Today, more than

1.5 million people work for McDonald's around the globe. What started as an American phenomenon has become a truly international brand.

**THE PRODUCT**

From its early roots as a small, family-run hamburger restaurant, McDonald's has evolved into a multibillion-dollar quick-service restaurant industry. While

hamburgers and fries remain the mainstay of McDonald's business, an instinctive ability to anticipate and fulfill real consumer needs has been central to McDonald's success. A prime example of this approach is the Filet-O-Fish sandwich, which was conceived by Lou Groen, a Cincinnati-based franchisee in a predominantly Catholic area. Groen noticed that his business was negatively impacted on Fridays, which was then a day of abstinence from meat for many Catholics. He developed a fish-based product to meet the needs of the local community. The Filet-O-Fish sandwich was launched in 1963 and went on to become a popular menu item in many of McDonald's international markets.

Another franchisee — Jim Deligatti from Pittsburgh — was responsible in 1968 for the creation of McDonald's most successful menu item ever, the Big Mac sandwich.

Nine years later, Herb Peterson, another franchisee, was the driving force behind the development of the Egg McMuffin for McDonald's breakfast menu — a move that would change the breakfast habits of millions of Americans.

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

McDonald's commitment to corporate responsibility began with founder Ray Kroc, who believed McDonald's had an "obligation to give back to the community that gives so much to us." Today, McDonald's understanding of responsibility has grown to include doing what is right, being a good neighbor in the community, and integrating social and environmental priorities into its restaurants and its relationships with suppliers and business partners.



That commitment translates into a variety of programs, policies, and initiatives designed to meet the diverse needs and opportunities of the many markets in which McDonald's does business around the world. McDonald's corporate responsibility efforts include owner/operator support for youth sports in local communities, a commitment to providing nutrition information to customers, working with suppliers to sustain the effectiveness of disease-fighting antibiotics, promoting animal welfare, restaurant-level efforts to promote energy efficiency and waste reduction, and more.



McDonald's second Worldwide Corporate Responsibility Report 2004 provides a comprehensive account of the company's commitment, activities, and progress. It includes an update on key programs and details future goals in each area of corporate responsibility. The report and further information about McDonald's corporate responsibility efforts are available by visiting the company's Web site at <http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/values/socialrespons.html>.

**PROMOTION**

Needless to say, McDonald's promotional skills are virtually second-to-none. From the global presence of the Golden Arches to the fact that

their spokesman, Ronald McDonald, speaks 25 languages, McDonald's devotion to promotion is legendary.

But what can happen when a company like McDonald's turns up the promotional heat on an issue of global concern? The answer is: Great Things.

On November 20, 2002, a visit to McDonald's brought extra value to the lives of millions of children in need around the world. On that day, participating McDonald's restaurants in more than 100 countries united for a history-making fundraising

initiative called World Children's Day, benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) and important local children's causes. In the United States, McDonald's donated \$1 from the sale of every Big Mac, Egg McMuffin, Happy Meal, and Mighty Kids Meal to RMHC. Money collected internationally went to children's causes of local interest.

While specific fund-raising programs varied by country, McDonald's restaurants shared a single goal: to join with customers in a global effort that would make a difference for children in their communities and around the world. World Children's Day activities took place in, among other places, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Russia, Jordan, Egypt, Germany, France, Mexico, and Western Samoa. Of course, McDonald's restaurants in cities across the United States held their own activities as well, with nationally known celebrities participating in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles.

"With the help of many generous people around the world, World Children's Day was the most expansive single-day fundraising event in McDonald's history, probably any company's history," said Ken Barun, RMHC president and CEO.

Ronald McDonald House Charities, a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization, creates, finds, and supports programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children through its network of 174 local Chapters currently serving in 44 countries. Named one of America's Top 100 Charities by *Worth* magazine in 2001 and 2002, the charity makes grants to not-for-profit organizations and provides support to Ronald McDonald Houses and Ronald McDonald Care Mobiles worldwide. To date, Ronald McDonald House



Charities' national body and global network of local Chapters have awarded more than \$340 million in grants to children's programs.

**BRAND VALUES**

Founder Ray Kroc developed his brand vision for McDonald's around a simple but effective consumer-driven premise of quality, service, cleanliness, and value. Kroc's winning formula was quickly shortened to QSC&V — an acronym that would become and remain an enduring cornerstone of the brand.

If QSC&V is the cornerstone of the McDonald's brand, then trust is its bedrock. To its customers, McDonald's is a brand that can be trusted to place the customer at the center of its world and to know the right thing to do.

The key to McDonald's success has been its capacity to touch universal consumer needs with such consistency that the essence of the brand has somehow always been relevant to the local culture, no matter how different that culture might be from McDonald's origins. With one of the most powerful brands in the business, McDonald's appears set to enjoy healthy growth long into the future.

**THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT MCDONALD'S**

- McDonald's partners with the Red Cross to help communities when natural disasters and other events prompt a need for assistance. For example, the company provided more than 750,000 free meals around the clock in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The company believes that's what neighbors do in times of need.
- The company's promotional efforts also support many youth activities. In fact, for the past 27 years, McDonald's has hosted the nation's most prestigious all-star high school boys' basketball game. Building on this success, a girls' game was added in 2002. Entitled the McDonald's All American High School Basketball Game, both games celebrate student-athletes who not only excel on the court but in the classroom and in their communities. More importantly, the games raise money for Ronald McDonald House Charities.
- In 2005, the "Golden Arches" celebrates its golden anniversary.