

# Hot Drinks in South Africa

November 2025

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### Hot Drinks in South Africa

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Price inflation, sustainability and channel shifts reshape hot drinks in South Africa

### **KEY DATA FINDINGS**

### INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Price hikes push up value sales in hot drinks in 2025

Sustainability comes to the fore

Younger consumers opt for on-trade experiences

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Persistent price rises ensure further value growth

Private label set to expand and present greater challenge to branded favourites

E-commerce to see further expansion through omnichannel strategies

### COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Nestlé remains leader of overall hot drinks in South Africa

Private label gains rapid ground

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Supermarkets leads distribution as e-commerce outpaces all others in terms of growth Foodservice sees slowed volume growth in 2025

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Rapid rises in value sales result from drastic price hikes

Fresh coffee beans drives overall growth thanks to home brewing trend

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Continued cost elevation will mean further strong value growth

Premium trends support growing interest in whole bean coffee and cold brew coffee

Sustainability will remain critical focus

### COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

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Supermarkets leads distribution through convenience and favourable pricing

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Both value and volume sales set to rise in response to demand for functional hot drinks and cross-category innovation

Developments in agriculture streamline processing methods Rooibos and honeybush will continue to attract through health profile

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### 2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Rising prices, health positioning and Nestlé's dominance shape other hot drinks in South Africa

### INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Rising prices support value growth but hamper volumes

Flavoured powder drinks and other plant-based hot drinks see rising interest

### WHAT'S NEXT?

Health and wellness trends to drive future growth and development

Innovation aligns with lifestyle choices

Possibility of sugar tax prompts players to reformulate offerings

### COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Nestlé dominates with well-known brands amid increased parallel imports

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