

Soft Drinks in the United Kingdom

November 2025

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Soft Drinks in the United Kingdom

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sales of soft drinks rise in 2025 with the focus on health and affordability

KEY DATA FINDINGS

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Ongoing price pressures push players to innovate to maintain demand Health, wellness and sustainability prominent drivers of new product development Guilt-free indulgence a key trend in 2025

WHAT'S NEXT?

New product development and innovation likely to remain key growth drivers

Players set to lean on digital technology in a rapidly evolving market

New and forthcoming regulation set to impact company strategies within soft drinks

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Coca-Cola retains a strong lead in soft drinks thanks to its broad brand portfolio

Monster Energy thriving while smaller players gain prominence in niche areas of the market

CHANNELS

Affordability remains a key issue as supermarkets and hypermarkets dominate sales Foodservice playing a key role in driving retail growth and innovation

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INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

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Flavoured and functional bottled water products benefit from focus on healthy indulgence

WHAT'S NEXT?

Health and sustainability set to remain a key focus of growth and innovation in bottled water

Diversified distribution and convenience trends support category expansion

UK bottled water producers face tighter controls on water sourcing, safety, and sustainability

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

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INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

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WHAT'S NEXT?

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INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

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Powder concentrates sees polarised demand

WHAT'S NEXT?

Health-driven reformulation and functional innovation shaping future demand

Digital transformation and product innovation

Regulatory shifts and sustainability focus

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Carlsberg now the leading force in concentrates following its acquisition of Britvic

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INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Producers switch to alternative inputs to overcome rising cost pressures

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WHAT'S NEXT?

Health and functionality set to be the focus of innovation over the forecast period

Digital engagement driving brand visibility and sales

Tighter regulations on sugar content, labelling and marketing on the horizon

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Innocent and Tropicana remain standout players thanks to ongoing investment in new product development Players offering healthier options see strong gains

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RTD Coffee in the United Kingdom

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 PERFORMANCE

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INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

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Promotions help push volume sales

WHAT'S NEXT?

RTD coffee still full of potential

Social media and e-commerce set the pace for innovation

RTD coffee is evolving through a focus on health, functionality, and sustainability

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Starbucks sets the pace with new products that tap into new trends

Competition heats up but not all players are winners

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RTD Tea in the United Kingdom

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 PERFORMANCE

Another strong year for sales of RTD tea

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

RTD tea successfully meets the demand for healthy and convenient refreshment Carbonated RTD tea and kombucha offers a healthy alternative to alcohol and sugary drinks

WHAT'S NEXT?

RTD tea set to benefit from ongoing investment in innovation

Digitalisation and social media turn matcha and bubble tea from online trends to retail powerhouses

Targeted wellness and the rise of need states in functional RTD tea

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Lipton continues to lead while innovation and new entrants reshape the RTD Tea market Market becoming more fragmented as smaller players and private label vie for share

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KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 PERFORMANCE

Energy drinks continue to flourish despite economic pressures

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Healthier choices and flavour innovation drive growth in energy drinks Limited edition products help drive interest and excitement in energy drinks

WHAT'S NEXT?

Wider adoption of energy claims within soft drinks will increase competition for the category Efficient use of data and technology could provide players with an edge Regulatory and legislative developments present a challenge to the market

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Intense competition, rapid innovation, and the growing influence of challenger brands Coca-Cola cements its lead through new product development

CHANNELS

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Sports drinks sees growing demand as consumers look for effective hydration

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Sports drinks still full of potential as sales grow in 2025

Functionality and high-profile collaborations influence market demand

WHAT'S NEXT?

Sustained expansion set to be driven by health concerns and innovation

Digital and technological advancements are shaping the future of sports drinks

Manufacturers face tightening regulations on sugar content and marketing practices

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

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