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Low- And No-Alcohol Beverages Are A Growing Trend Worldwide, Says New Report

Note #1 (Company Parameters)

This is the compilation of Data, Notes, and Information that have been put together to create a Business Plan, along with Pro-forma Financial Statements, for a start-up company in the ***non-alcoholic beverage*** industry.

The goal of my business plan is twofold:

1. To help identify and outline all the issues I will need to address in starting this company.
2. To present to funders to help raise money to finance this company.

NAB Background:

Melinda Cates has been selling her NAB at County Fairs for the past 7 years for \$2 a bottle. She sells an average of 10 Cardboard cartons each weekend a County Fair is open. From her calculations, it takes \$.56 to make a bottle of NAB when she calculates all the NAB ingredients and the cost of the bottle and cap. Her rich uncle, Bill, just died and left her a small monetary inheritance. However, since he so enjoyed her homemade NAB, he also left her equipment to start a small NAB business. Additionally, her uncle left her a facility that will allow growth to start the business. It has the potential for expansion in order to meet larger sales goals for the future.

Melinda and I have been close, trusted friends for years. She knew I attended Strayer University and earned my MBA; so I agreed to assist her get the business up and running. I have agreed to put together a NAB Business Plan, and I have agreed to be the CEO/President of the company for at least the next five years.

NAB Today: Parameters for New Company

Here are the parameters in which I must work.

- ❑ The business is a start-up: We are not yet in operation. We already have a “recipe” for a beverage, but we are not yet making sales at any significant level.
- ❑ Product: the only barrier is that it must be a non-alcoholic beverage (NAB). It is up to me to decide upon what type of non-alcoholic beverage I intend to make and market. It can be sold in individual sizes or wholesale.
- ❑ Market size. I will start marketing and selling the NAB in my geographical area within a 100-mile radius from my home address.
- ❑ Business size. I can grow the NAB business to any size in excess of one million dollars in revenue by year two. In other words, this cannot be intended to be a one- or two-person micro-business.
- ❑ I intend to raise money. I will be looking for funding, and I have already started with friends and family money. However, at some point, I will need funds from outside investors, either angels or venture capitalists, depending on how much I project, I need to raise or receive from a group of individual investors on Kickstarter.
- ❑ I intend to have employees and develop my own organizational hierarchy.

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- ② I do not need to raise money for my personal financial support for the first six months. In other words, I do not need to draw a salary for myself for the first six months of projections. Annual salary will be \$55,002 1st year; adjusted to \$110,004 2nd year; finally adjusted to \$165,008 for all remaining years in position.

Note #2 (Equipment & Inventory)

The NAB Financial Worksheets will need to have the value of this equipment and inventory included. Some of the items we currently own:

Owned Equipment:

Two (2) NAB Mixer Beverage Filling Machines (mixes up to 200 gallons each) - \$28,500 each (value in current \$)



The Mixer Beverage Filling machine is a rinsing, filling, and capping (3-in-1) Monobloc machine, imported from Italy. Because it is equipped with constant temperature controlling system, it can be applied to fill hot or cold fruit juice, tea and other beverage into 16 oz. bottles. It is suitable for normal temperature filling or hot filling 16 oz. bottles. It is one of the most advanced filling machine at present.

Two (2) Accutek AccuSnap Capper Bottling machines (for capping bottles) - \$9,600 each (value in current \$) See Auto AccuSnap Capper, below.

Four (4) Vehicles (used panel vans) - \$10,000 each (value in current \$)

Three (3) Computers (Apple Macintosh) - \$1,200 each (value in current \$)

Graphic Software -\$750 (value in current \$)

Leased Equipment:

Labeling machinery - \$450/month (in current \$)

Printers - \$550/month (in current \$)

Current Inventory:

Glass Bottles (16 oz.), 24,000 - \$3,000 (value in current \$)

Labels, 24,000 - \$840 (value in current \$)

Metal caps, 24,000 - \$300 (value in current \$)

Cardboard Cartons (holds 48 bottles), 500 - \$500 (value in current \$)

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NAB-ingredients, enough to make 24,000 bottles - \$600 (value in current \$)



NOTES on EQUIPMENT

Accutek AccuSnap Capper - are continuous motion machines that replace the tedious work of manually pressing and/or placing snap caps. Accutek AccuSnap Cappers prevent costly spills by removing human error from this process. This machine can also help prevent repetitious motion injuries and strains to your workforce that can result when manually placing snap caps. Accutek AccuSnap Cappers systems are available in three different styles, Belt, Roller, and Plunger in order to offer solutions to a variety of snap cap types. Milk jugs, dropper inserts, lip balm caps, over caps, "top hat" seals, twist cap with ratcheted rip seal, bar top caps, and a variety of other cap applications are all within the capabilities of Accutek AccuSnap Capper. Each machine is designed to accommodate a wide variety of container types. A variety of gripper belt options is available to stabilize different types of containers.

The Accutek AccuSnap Capper features an Accutek centrifugal bowl or cap elevator orientated arm. With an automated delivery device, the Accutek AccuSnap Capper can reach speeds up to 120 CPM.

SnapCap007

Dimensions -

Height: 94" (238 cm)

Width: 24" (61 cm)

Length: 32" (91.4 cm)

Weight -

800 lbs. (363 kg)

Speed -

Up to 120 CPM

Cap Size -

Min: 10mm / Max: 660mm

Electrical -

110V AC 20 Amp (220 available)

Air Requirements -

120 PSI @ 2 CFM

Note #3 (Personnel, Business Expenses, & Financial Matters)

Personnel Requirements and Family Financial Investment

Personnel

Current Personnel:

Myself (Student Name Here): Fulltime CEO/President; no salary for the first six months

Stephen Job: Part Time (20 hrs/week) Computer Expert/Assistant: \$15/hr

Melinda Cates: NAB Creator & Master Mixer (owns the patent on the NAB): has \$40,000 inheritance

(Volunteer) Ian Glass: Retired PepsiCo plant production line foreman. Ian recently retired with 35 years of loyal PepsiCo service in every position from janitor to production line foreman, and he and his wife moved into your neighborhood. He is tickled that you have asked him to help develop a plan to get the NAB Company's production line going. He said he could help organize and sit on the planning committee as a non-paid member until the NAB Company can hire its own Production Line Foreman. He hinted that he retired from PepsiCo with an annual salary of \$55,000, but he says that is just the starting salary that large companies pay their foremen who are in an apprenticeship program. He does not think the NAB Company will have to pay top dollar for someone who has the willingness to join the NAB Company as a start up!

(Paid Consultant) Mary Cates, JD: Melinda's sister who was a senior executive with the Federal Trade Commission from 2007-2018. She left the FTC after a significant 30 year career with the federal government in which she lead the research and support of numerous federal court findings against companies that violated consumer deception and unfair practices laws. She would enjoy serving on the initial company-planning group to make sure her sister's recipe is successfully shared within the state!

Future Personnel:

Production Line Foreman (Note: in order to meet goals of creating a \$1 M revenue company by year two; you will need more than one shift of employees.)

Projection Line Workforce - (see note above)

Maintenance Workforce (see note above)

Business Expenses:

- Marketing
- Paid services (professional in nature)
- Telephone/fax
- Business Insurance
- Office Supplies
- Mailings and postage
- Printing services
- Inventory purchases

Capital Expenditures:

- Additional equipment purchases to meet production goals
- Additional computer equipment

Facilities:

Need monthly estimates for the following areas:

- Building maintenance costs
- Utilities:
 - Water/Sewer
 - Gas
 - Electricity
- Trash removal

Financial Matters:

Family Financial Investment:

Collected \$20,000 from friends and relatives who would like to either have their seed money returned by the end of this calendar year at no interest or by the end of the second year of operation with 5% interest.

(If you chose, the early payoff you must adjusted your BPF on worksheet 8 to read 12 months and 0% interest, so that you are not paying loan payments automatically. If you chose to pay back over 24 months than the original instructions on the BPF Worksheet Guidance.)

Financial Decisions:

- Employee raises
- Owner draw
- Taxes
- Investors
- Sales (local, regional, national, or global)

Note # 4 (Websites - Data & Statistics)

“Non-alcoholic Beverages and Soft Drinks-Statistics & Facts, *Statista*

<http://www.statista.com/topics/1662/non-alcoholic-beverages-and-soft-drinks-in-the-us>

“Non-alcoholic Beverages,” *Statista*

<https://www.statista.com/markets/415/topic/997/non-alcoholic-beverages/>

“Overview of the US Non-alcoholic beverage industry,” *Market Realist*

<https://marketrealist.com/2016/03/overview-us-nonalcoholic-beverage-industry/>

“Top 100 Beverage Companies” *Beverage Industry* <https://www.bevindustry.com/articles/92144-top-100-beverage-companies-of-2018>

Drinkpreneur website – “beverage insights for entrepreneurs”

www.drinkpreneur.com

“Ten Beverage Startups that you should definitely check out,” www.drinkpreneur.com

<https://www.drinkpreneur.com/beverage-startups/10-beverage-startups-that-you-should-definitely-check-out/>

“Non-alcoholic beverage market - growth, trends, and forecast (2019 - 2024),” *Mordor Intelligence*

<https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/non-alcoholic-beverage-market>

American Beverage Association, 2018 Review

<http://aba18review.com/>

“Consumer and CPG (consumer packaged goods) trends interview” – Video

<https://www.bevindustry.com/videos?bctid=3006613848001>

Beverage Industry Magazine

www.bevindustry.com

American Beverage Industry

www.ameribev.org

Beverage Dictionary, *American Beverage Industry*

<https://www.ameribev.org/education-resources/beverage-dictionary/>

Beverage Equipment manufacturer

<http://beverageindustries.com>

<http://libdatab.strayer.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=bth&AN=102826573&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Note # 5 (Market Research)

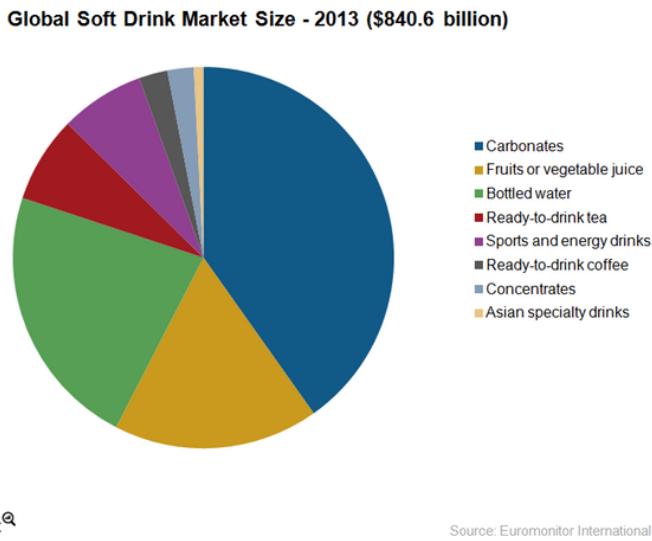
(Note: the following articles are a good introduction/overview of the industry. They are clearly dated, as they leave out the rapid growth of some new types of non-alcoholic beverages—such as flavored waters, kombucha, cold-brew coffee, etc.—but they are a good introduction. Check more recent data and websites cited in this Portfolio...)

“A guide to the non-alcoholic beverage industry”

By Sharon Bailey, *MarketRealist* • Nov 20, 2014

Industry overview

The non-alcoholic beverage industry broadly includes soft drinks and hot drinks. Soft drinks contain carbonated or non-carbonated water, a sweetener, and a flavor, and hot drinks include coffee and tea. The soft drink category dominates the industry and includes carbonates, juice, bottled water, ready-to-drink tea and coffee, and sports and energy drinks. Soft drinks are sometimes referred to as liquid refreshment beverages (or LRBs). In the US, LRBs lead food and beverage retail sales. In this series, we'll focus on the soft drink or LRB market.



Dominant carbonates category

The global soft drink market is led by carbonated soft drinks (or CSDs), which had a market size of \$337.8 billion in 2013. In the same year, CSDs were followed by bottled water, with a market size of \$189.1 billion, and juice, with a market size of \$146.2 billion. In a later part of this series, we'll discuss why CSDs have been losing popularity, and why sales of other beverages, including juices and ready-to-drink tea, are increasing.

Major companies

The non-alcoholic beverage market is a highly competitive industry that includes two behemoths —The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) and PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)). Collectively, these companies hold about

NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMPANY PORTFOLIO

70% of the US CSD market. Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)), Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)), and Cott Corporation ([COT](#)) are some other key players in the CSD market.

Many international markets are also dominated by Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, but include other companies such as Groupe Danone, Nestle SA, and Suntory Holdings Limited.

Non-alcoholic beverage manufacturers, like Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, are part of the consumer staple sector. You can invest in these companies through the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)).

Understanding consumer craving for soft drinks

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:08 pm EST

What's a soft drink made of?

Soft drinks contain water, nutritive or non-nutritive sweeteners, and syrups. The primary nutritive sweetener used in the US is high-fructose corn syrup (or HFCS), a form of sugar. Internationally, sucrose is the main nutritive sweetener used in soft drinks. Soft drink makers also use non-nutritive or artificial sweeteners such as aspartame, acesulfame potassium, saccharin, cyclamate, and sucralose. So what drives a person to consume a soft drink?

Why People Crave Soft Drinks



Market Realist[®]

Source: Company Websites

Stimulants in soft drinks

People crave soft drinks because they contain two stimulants—sugar and caffeine. Also, the water in soft drinks hydrates. Soft drinks contain considerable amounts of sugar, which is a form of carbohydrate. Consumption of excess sugar releases a hormone called dopamine, which induces pleasure in the brain.

Caffeine, another key ingredient, stimulates the nervous system, and helps you to stay awake or restores alertness. With its slightly bitter taste, caffeine's also used to enhance the flavor of carbonated soft drinks.

Ingredient facts

The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) and PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)) are the leading soft drink manufacturers. A 12-fluid ounce can of Coca-Cola contains 39 grams of sugar and around 34 milligrams of caffeine. A 12-fluid ounce can of Pepsi contains 41 grams of sugar and 38 milligrams of caffeine. A 12-fluid ounce can of Dr Pepper, made by Dr Pepper Snapple Group ([DPS](#)), contains 40 grams of sugar and 41 milligrams of caffeine. Energy drinks made by leading companies such as Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)) contain higher amounts of caffeine.

Despite the considerable demand for soft drinks across the globe, these drinks are facing severe criticism for the ill-effects of high sugar content.

Beverages come under the consumer staple sector. The Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)) is one way to invest in soft drinks companies.

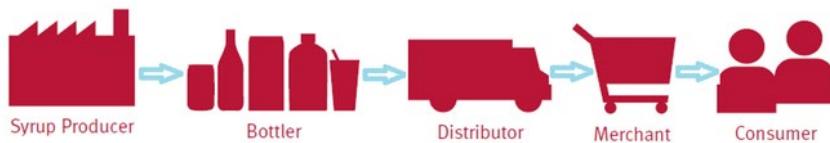
Understanding the value chain of the soft drink industry

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:08 pm EST

Industry Partners

Soft drinks constitute a major part of the US food and beverage industry. Syrup or concentrate producers and bottlers play a vital role in the value chain of the soft drink industry.

Value Chain - Soft Drink Industry



Bottling and distribution network

Companies in the soft drink industry reach the end market in two ways. One way is by selling finished products, made at company-owned bottling facilities, to distributors and retailers.

Another, is by selling beverage concentrates and syrups to authorized bottling partners, who then make the final product by combining the concentrates with still or carbonated water, sweeteners, and other ingredients. The bottlers then package the product in containers and sell these beverages to distributors or directly to retailers.

Also, both bottling partners and companies manufacture fountain syrups and sell them to fountain retailers. Fountain retailers include restaurants and convenience stores, which produce beverages for immediate consumption.

Distribution: Third-party products

The extensive reach of The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) and PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)) allows them to produce or distribute third-party brands. For instance, Coca-Cola is licensed to produce and distribute certain brands of Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)) and Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)). PepsiCo sells Lipton and Starbucks brands under partnerships with Unilever and Starbucks, respectively.

Pricing power

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo's wide distribution network gives them significant pricing power. Carbonated soft drinks have similar prices due to the intense competition in the industry. Often, soft drink companies extend lower prices under promotional offers. In recent times, such promotional offers have been used to boost volumes of the carbonated soft drinks. That's because they're under pressure due to rising health concerns and competition from healthy substitutes such as tea, energy drinks, and water.

The non-alcoholic beverage industry is part of the consumer staples sector. You can invest in this sector through the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)), which has notable holdings in Coca-Cola and PepsiCo.

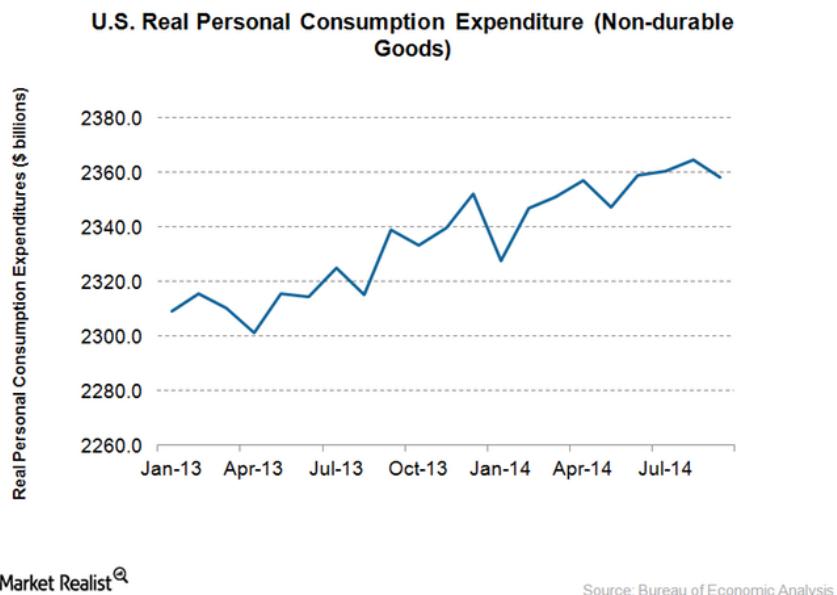
Key indicators of the non-alcoholic beverage industry

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:09 pm EST

Factors influencing sector growth

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The non-alcoholic beverage industry falls under the consumer staples category ([XLP](#)), which is non-cyclical in nature compared to the consumer discretionary sector. In this part of the series, we'll look at the factors that impact the growth of the non-alcoholic beverage industry.



Consumption expenditure

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (or BEA) releases the personal income and outlays monthly reports that indicate changes in individuals' personal incomes, savings, and expenditures.

US consumption spending accounts for over two-thirds of the country's gross domestic product (or GDP). The US real personal consumption expenditure for non-durable goods measures consumer spending on non-durable goods, such as food and beverages, on an inflation-adjusted basis.

Disposable income and consumer confidence

Consumption expenditure depends on disposable income, which is measured as personal income less personal current taxes. People tend to spend more with a rise in their disposable income. Increase in consumer confidence also increases consumption expenditure. In the US, the Conference Board and the University of Michigan each provide monthly reports on the consumer confidence index, which indicates the degree of optimism about the state of the economy as reflected in consumer spending and saving activities.

According to market-intelligence firm Euromonitor International, consumer-expenditure growth in emerging markets has surpassed that in developed markets every year since 2000, and is expected to continue doing so.

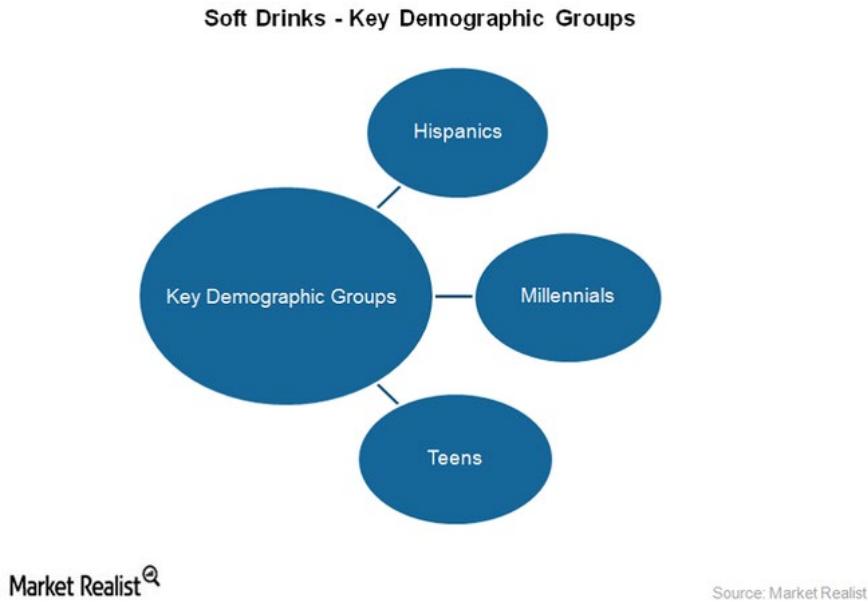
A favorable trend in consumer spending on non-durable goods is a positive indicator for the non-alcoholic beverage industry. It's also good for the performance of exchange-traded funds (or ETFs) that invest in the consumer staple sector. The Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)) has holdings in the major soft drink companies like The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)), PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)), Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)), and Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)).

Understanding the soft drink industry's key markets

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:09 pm EST

Income bracket

The growing population and rise of the middle class, particularly in emerging markets, are key growth drivers for non-alcoholic beverage companies. Market intelligence firm Euromonitor International estimates the middle class around the world will include 1.5 billion households by 2020, a 25% rise over 2012.



Hispanics

Many companies are innovating products and investing in marketing campaigns that target fast-growing population segments, such as the Hispanic community in the US. Hispanics include people of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Southern or Central American descent. People of other Spanish cultures or origins, regardless of race, are also considered Hispanic. Nielsen estimates that by 2015, Hispanics will have \$1.5 trillion in buying power, reflecting a significant 50% rise from 2010.

Millennials

“Millennial” refers to the generation of people who were born between 1981 and 1996. According to Nielson, there are 77 million Millennials in the US, representing 24% of the US population. Millennials make extensive use of social media and mobile devices, and have more product awareness.

Major companies in the soft drink industry, including The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)), PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)), Dr Pepper Snapple Group ([DPS](#)), and Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)), are focusing their marketing strategies on this influential demographic group.

Teens

The teen population is a core demographic for the soft drink industry. At the 2014 Consumer Analyst Group of Europe conference, Coca-Cola reflected on the importance of the 3.5 billion people who are in their teens and early 20s.

Soft drink companies are part of the consumer staples sector. Investors can access this sector through the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)).

The role of branding and advertising in the soft drink industry

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:09 pm EST

The importance of advertising

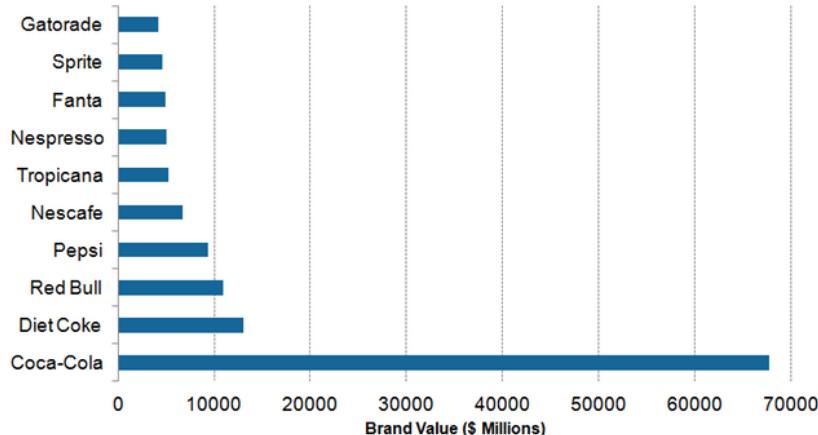
The soft drink industry is marked by severe competition and declining demand for carbonates. Major companies in the industry sustain positions in this adverse scenario on the strength of company and product branding and advertising strategies.

Global brands

The industry includes companies that enjoy huge popularity all over the globe. Brand consultancy Interbrand ranked The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) as the world's third-most valuable brand, with a value of \$81.6 billion. Coca-Cola's closest competitor PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)) ranked 24th, with a brand value of \$19.1 billion.

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Leading Global Soft Drink Brands (2014)



Market Realist

Source: Brandz Top 100 Global Brands Report

Strong individual brand portfolios

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo own impressive brands that generate more than a billion dollars each in revenues.

- Coca-Cola: The company owns more than 500 brands, and features 17 brands that generate more than one billion dollars each in revenues, including Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Powerade, Aquarius, Bonqua, Dasani, Fanta, Schweppes, and Minute Maid.
- PepsiCo: The company's massive brand portfolio includes 22 brands generating revenues of more than one billion dollars each. Some of its better-known labels are Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Gatorade, Mirinda, Aquafina, and Lipton.

Investing in brands

Soft drink makers continually invest in branding. In 2013, Coca-Cola and PepsiCo spent \$3.3 billion and \$3.9 billion, respectively, on advertising and marketing activities.



The success of Coca-Cola's Share a Coke campaign is a perfect example of the importance attached to marketing in this industry. The Share a Coke campaign was first rolled out in Australia in 2011 and then extended to more than 50 countries. The campaign allowed fans to put their names or those of their family and friends right on the front of Coca-Cola bottles or cans, effectively personalizing the product.

The campaign increased the volume of the Coca-Cola brand's sales. In 2013, it generated 5% and 1% full-year volume growth in Germany and the Northwest Europe and Nordics region, respectively.

Peers in the industry such as Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)) and Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)) also focus intently on marketing. Dr Pepper Snapple, the third-largest company in the US soft drink market, spent \$486 million on advertising in 2013. Monster, a leading player in energy drinks, incurred \$181.8 million in advertising expenses.

Soft drinks come under the consumer staple sector. You can access this sector through the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)).

Why the soft drink industry is dominated by Coke and Pepsi

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:09 pm EST

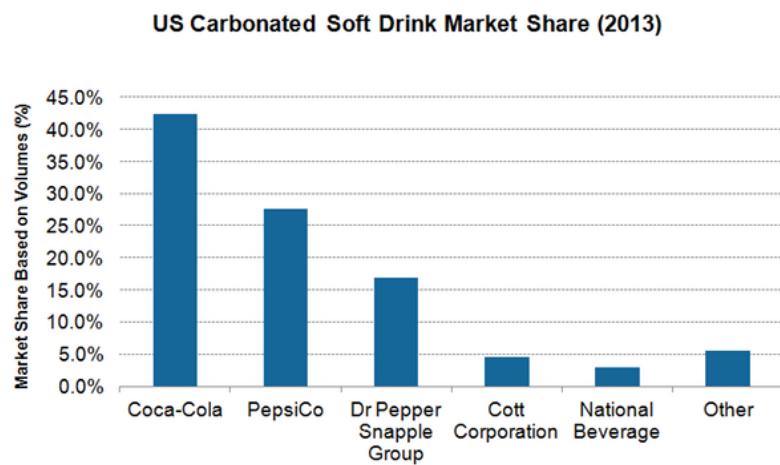
A rivalry for the ages

The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) and PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)) have dominated the non-alcoholic beverage industry for ages. Coca-Cola is the world's largest non-alcoholic beverage company with more than 500 brands, including 17 brands that generate more than a billion dollars each in revenue. PepsiCo owns leading brands across its snack foods and beverage portfolio, including 22 brands that

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generate more than a billion dollars each in revenue. According to *Beverage Digest*, the companies have a combined share of about 70% of the US carbonated soft drink (or CSD) market.

Both companies have a wide geographic presence in more than 200 countries. The rivalry between these two companies, popularly called the cola wars, is legendary. Both have spent huge sums of money on mutually targeted advertisements over decades.



Market Realist[®]

Source: Beverage Digest

Threat from new entrants

The industry does not face any major threats from new entrants because Coca-Cola and PepsiCo each have an extensive bottling and distribution network and huge economies of scale. For example, Coca-Cola has about 250 bottling partners and 900 plants worldwide. It would be difficult for a new entity to make the substantial capital investments required to compete with these firms. Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)) has seen impressive growth in the US CSD market, yet it lacks the international presence of these giants.

Significant investments

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo spend enormous amounts of money on innovation, advertising and marketing, and on strengthening their distribution network. Since 2010, Coca-Cola and its bottling partners have invested more than \$50 billion in new facilities, distribution infrastructure, equipment, and retail customer activations. PepsiCo spent 5.9% of 2013 net revenue on advertising and marketing.

Other companies in the non-alcoholic beverage industry include Cott Corporation ([COT](#)) and Mondelez International Inc. ([MDLZ](#)). You can also invest in the non-alcoholic beverage sector

through the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)) that has notable holdings in Coca-Cola and PepsiCo.

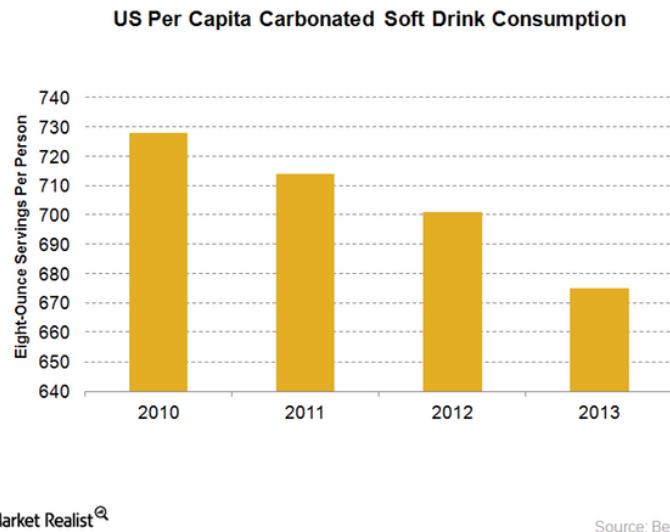
In the next part of this series, we'll look at the reasons for disappointing growth in the non-alcoholic beverage industry.

Why growth is sluggish in the non-alcoholic beverage industry

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:09 pm EST

Falling demand

The non-alcoholic beverage industry is facing challenges. Carbonated beverage volumes are falling, primarily in developed markets. *Beverage Digest* indicates a 3% fall in 2013 overall carbonated soft drink (or CSD) volumes in the US, making it the ninth straight year in which demand has declined. Previously, US CSD volumes declined by 1.2% and 1% in 2012 and 2011, respectively.



Key indicator—per capita consumption

The per capita CSD consumption in the US fell to about 675 8-ounce servings per person in 2013, from 701 8-ounce servings in 2012. Reduced consumption reflects the declining volumes and a slower rate of US population growth.

One of the reasons for the continued decline in soft drink volumes over the past few years is weak consumer spending, caused by adverse macroeconomic conditions, especially in the US and Europe.

Health concerns

Another major reason is the shift in consumer preferences toward healthier products. Carbonated soft drink makers have faced severe criticism from health officials, governments, and communities alike for the ill-effects of high sugar content, artificial sweeteners, and other harmful ingredients in their products, including those in diet soda variants. Consumers are also more conscious of the health risks associated with soft drinks such as obesity and nutritional deficiencies, especially in youth. As a result, they're opting for other beverages that are non-carbonated and have fewer calories.

The World Health Organization suggests that sugar should account for only 5% of total energy intake per day. That's around 25 grams of sugar per day for an adult of normal body mass index. Health officials feel that this percentage should be even lower for a better quality of life. A single soda can contains around 40 grams of sugar.

The soda tax

Mexico, which has the highest rates of obesity in the world, has imposed a 10% tax on sugary beverages to discourage the consumption of these drinks. There is a strong possibility that many other countries will introduce a soda tax to reduce sugar consumption through carbonated drinks.

In the next part of this series, we'll discuss how soft drink makers including The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)), PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)), Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)), and Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)) are sustaining business under such challenging conditions. Coca-Cola and PepsiCo are part of the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)).

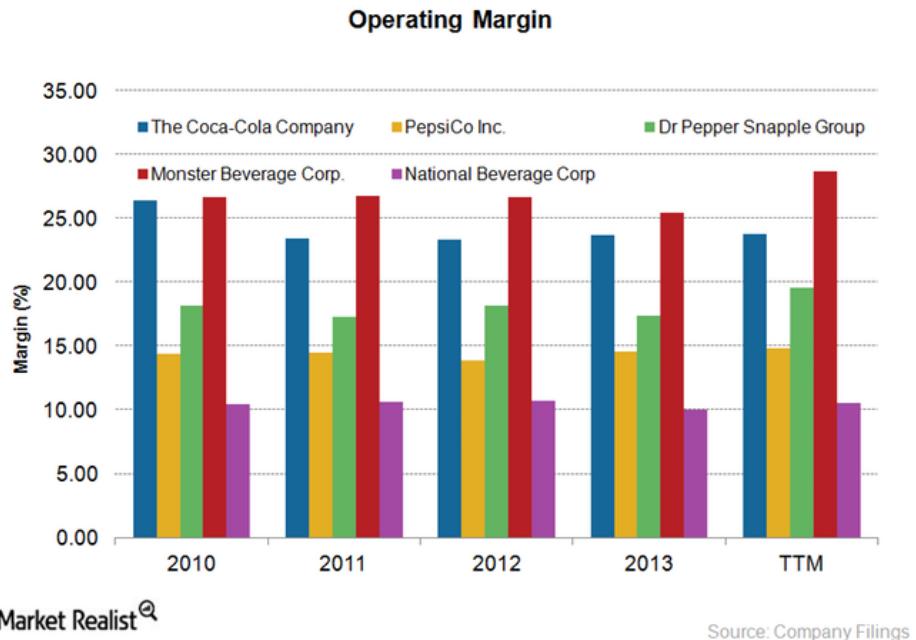
In challenging times, soft drinks makers optimize and thrive

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:09 pm EST

Productivity measures

Companies in the soft drink industry are taking several initiatives to streamline operations and cut costs. These measures are needed to offset declining volumes in the carbonated drinks category and the challenging business conditions apparent in Europe, North America, and other key markets.

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Cost-cutting initiatives

Significant optimization measures allow soft drink companies to make it through challenging times. The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) is streamlining its operations and restructuring its global supply chain. In North America, the company's optimizing its manufacturing footprint. It recently announced plans to expand its productivity program, through which it aims to save \$1 billion by 2016, \$2 billion by 2017, and \$3 billion by 2019. The company intends to reinvest these savings in brand-building initiatives, mainly media spending.

PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)) is on track to achieve \$1 billion in savings globally in 2014. It's cutting costs across procurement, research and development, and other functions. The company recently extended its \$1 billion annual productivity savings target through 2019. PepsiCo is focusing on enhancing its operations through automation, including automated packaging, case picking, and forklift transportation.

Another major US soft drink maker, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)), commenced its rapid continuous improvement program in 2011 and achieved \$169 million in cash productivity over the 2011 to 2013 period.

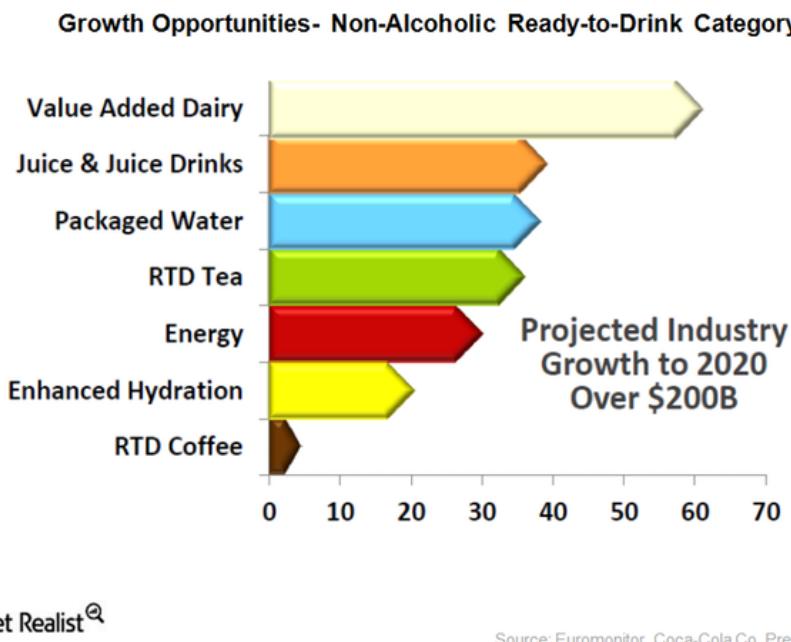
These measures are helping companies protect margins in adverse market conditions. The soft drink industry also includes Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)) and Mondelez International, Inc. ([MDLZ](#)). You can also invest in this industry through the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)).

Soft drink industry now looking to still beverages to boost sales

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:09 pm EST

Social pressures forcing change

The carbonated soft drinks (or CSD) category of the soft drink industry has witnessed declining volumes in the past few years. Mainly, this is due to challenging conditions in developed markets and increased health awareness among consumers about the side-effects of sugar and other ingredients present in carbonated drinks.



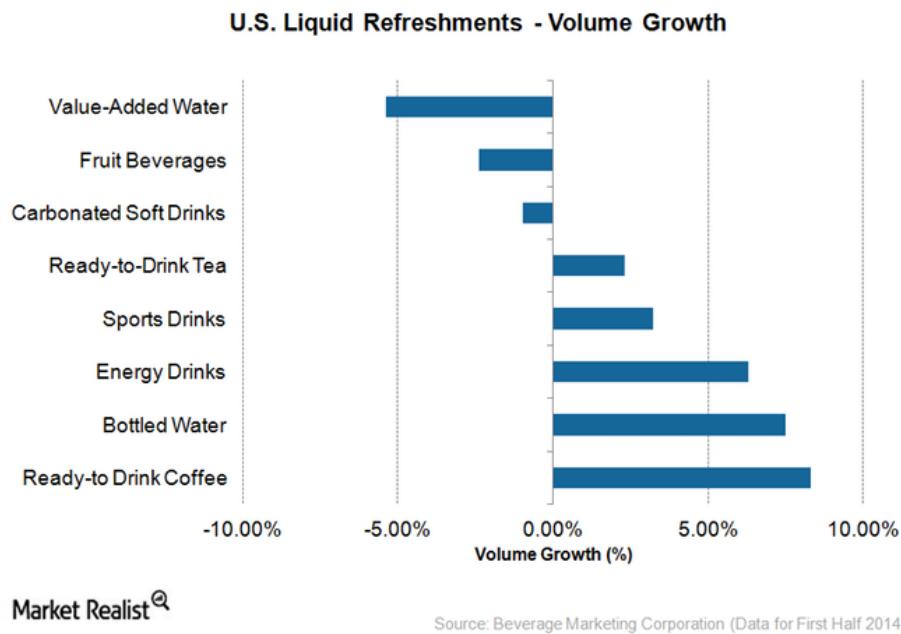
Soft drink makers are facing severe pressure from civil society groups and governments to reduce the calories in soft drinks. In the September 2014 Clinton Global Initiative, the three largest US soda companies—The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)), PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)), and the Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#))—pledged to reduce the number of sugary drink calories that Americans consume by 20% over the next decade. To achieve this target, the three big players plan to expand low-calorie product portfolios, introduce smaller portion containers, and educate consumers about healthier alternatives.

The change in consumer preferences has provided a new opportunity for CSD manufacturers to grow into the still beverages, or the non-carbonated category of the ready-to-drink market.

Ready-to-drink beverages

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The non-alcoholic, ready-to-drink (or NARTD) market is projected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 5% between 2014 and 2017. A large proportion of this growth will come from emerging economies. Since 2010, NARTD retail value has increased by \$135 billion and Euromonitor International estimates this category will grow by more than \$200 billion by 2020.



In the first half of 2014, ready-to-drink tea and coffee, sports and energy drinks, and bottled water recorded strong growth. Coca-Cola and PepsiCo have a strong presence across these categories and are investing heavily for further portfolio expansion. Other companies including Dr Pepper Snapple and Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)) are also investing in product development in these categories in an attempt to cater to changing consumer tastes.

This new focus on healthier and nutritious products based on changing consumer preferences and increasing health consciousness will be a key growth driver for the non-alcoholic beverage industry.

The Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)) provides an attractive avenue to invest in soft drink companies.

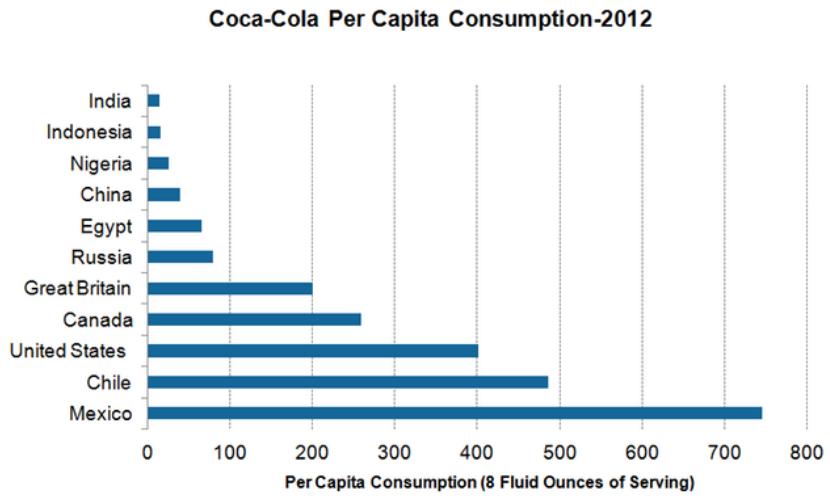
International growth opportunities for the soft drink industry

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:09 pm EST

Beyond borders

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The soft drink industry is looking for growth beyond developed markets like the US, where the reach of carbonated soft drinks has reached a saturation point. The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) derived 58% of its 2013 revenues internationally. PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)), which is a leading food and beverage company, generated 49% of its revenues outside the US.



Market Realist[®]

Source: Coca-Cola Website

Growth prospects

The per capita consumption in a region measures the average number of 8-ounce servings consumed each year. For Coca-Cola, per capita consumption in 2012 was 745 in Mexico and 401 in the US, as the chart above shows. But per capita consumption was comparatively low in countries such as China and India, indicating that in many countries, soft drinks are not consumed as widely as in the domestic market.

Companies including PepsiCo and Coca-Cola are focusing on these growth regions to increase per capita consumption by investing in manufacturing and distribution networks, as well as advertising.

Positive trends

Growing populations and better standards of living in emerging markets will drive demand for beverages. Rising health awareness among consumers across the globe is moving them toward better options including ready-to-drink tea, bottled water, and low-calorie products.

The long-term prospects for growth in emerging economies are promising. In the short-term, however, there might be certain impediments such as lower-than-expected consumer spending growth in countries such as China.

Competition outside the domestic market

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo compete with local niche players and private labels in developing markets. For instance, in China, Hangzhou Wahaha Group Co., Ltd., Hebei Yangyuan Zhihui Beverage Co., Ltd., and Guangdong Jiaduobao Beverage & Food Co., Ltd. are some of the key players in the soft drink market.

Other soft drink manufacturers such as Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)) and Mondelez International, Inc. ([MDLZ](#)) are also looking for international growth opportunities.

An alternative way to invest in the soft drink industry is through the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)).

Strategic deals in the soft drink industry

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:10 pm EST

Industry alliances

Major companies in the soft drink industry are looking for strategic deals to expand product portfolios or to strengthen distribution networks. These alliances will help companies offset declining demand for carbonated soft drinks.

Recent Key Partnerships in Soft Drink Industry	
Entities Involved	Terms of the Deal
Coca-Cola, Monster Beverage  	Coca-Cola purchased 16.7% equity stake in Monster Beverage and will transfer its energy portfolio to Monster Beverage. Monster Beverage to transfer non-energy portfolio to Coca-Cola.
Dr Pepper Snapple, Davis Beverage Group and Davis Bottling Co. 	Acquisition included most of Davis' direct store delivery territory in Pennsylvania, a portion of its New Jersey territory and other assets.
Cott Corporation, DSS Group, Inc., parent company of DS Services of America, Inc. 	Cott will acquire DS Services of America, Inc., a leading water and coffee direct-to-consumer services provider.

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Source: Company Websites

Recent Pepsi and Coca-Cola deals

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In 2014, The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) announced a long-term partnership with Keurig Green Mountain, Inc. ([GMCR](#)). The deal will allow people to enjoy ice-cold Coca-Cola beverages at home with the soon-to-be-released Keurig Cold machine.

In August 2014, Coca-Cola announced the purchase of a 16.7% stake in Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)). The \$2.15 billion deal will help both companies leverage their respective strengths—Coca-Cola's bottling system and Monster Beverage's position as a global energy player.

Under the terms of the partnership, Coca-Cola will transfer ownership of its energy business, including drinks such as Full Throttle, Burn, and Relentless, to Monster Beverage. Monster Beverage will transfer its non-energy business, including drinks such as Hansen's Natural Sodas, Peace Tea, Hubert's Lemonade, and Hansen's Juice Products, to Coca-Cola.

In October 2014, PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)) and home carbonation maker SodaStream International entered into a short-term agreement to test a limited number of PepsiCo flavors for SodaStream machines.

Other deal-making in the sector

In 2014, Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)) acquired Davis Beverage Group and Davis Bottling Co. to enhance its distribution network.

In November 2014, Cott Corporation ([COT](#)) announced the \$1.5 billion acquisition of DSS Group, Inc., parent company of DS Services of America, Inc., a leading water and coffee direct-to-consumer services provider in the US. With this acquisition, Cott, a leading producer of private-label soft drinks, juices, sparkling water, and energy drinks, will expand into growing markets. Examples of growing markets include water and coffee home-and-office delivery services, water filtration services, and retail services.

The soft drink industry is part of the consumer staples sector. You can invest in the soft drink industry with the Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR ETF ([XLP](#)), which has notable holdings in Coca-Cola and PepsiCo.

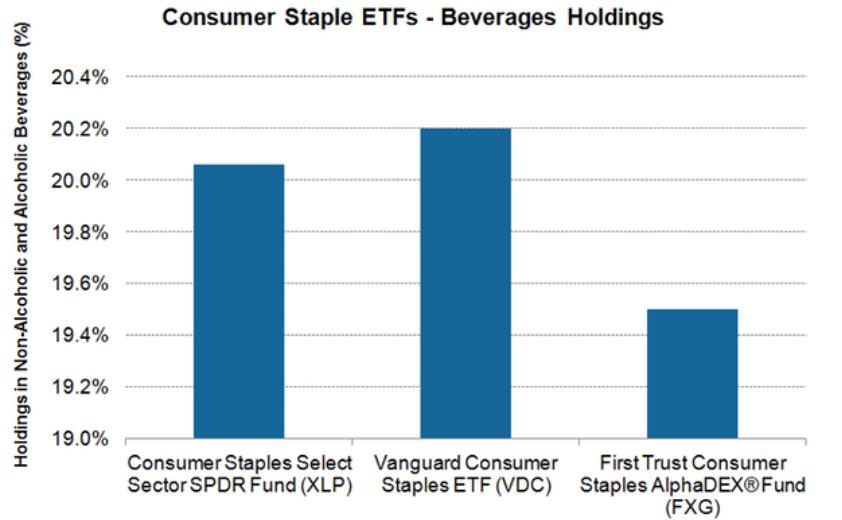
Investing in soft drink companies with ETFs

By Sharon Bailey • Nov 20, 2014 12:10 pm EST

Packaged investing

Exchange-traded funds (or ETFs) are capital market instruments that are designed to track an index, a commodity, or a basket of assets. Soft drink companies come under the consumer staples sector. There are many consumer staples sector ETFs that help investors access stocks in the soft drink industry.

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Source: SPDR State Street Global Advisors, Vanguard, First Trust Portfolios

Consumer staple ETFs

Consumer staple ETFs provide exposure to companies that produce essentials, including food, beverages, tobacco, and household items. The above chart shows the exposure of some of the consumer staples ETFs to beverage companies, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic.

The Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR Fund ([XLP](#)) tracks the S&P Consumer Staples Select Sector Index. The Vanguard Consumer Staples ETF ([VDC](#)) tracks the MSCI US Investable Market Consumer Staples 25/50 Index. Assets under management of the XLP and the VDC are \$9.64 billion and \$2.35 billion, respectively, as of November 17, 2014. The expense ratios for the XLP and the VDC are 0.16% and 0.14%, respectively.

Both the XLP and the VDC have The Coca-Cola Company ([KO](#)) and PepsiCo, Inc. ([PEP](#)) in their top ten holdings. Coca-Cola and PepsiCo are the dominant companies in the soft drink industry and together, hold 70% of the US carbonated soft drink market share.

The First Trust Consumer Staples AlphaDEX Fund ([FXG](#)), using the StrataQuant Consumer Staples Index as its benchmark, selects stocks from the Russell 1000 Index. The FXG has \$2.11 billion in assets under management and has an expense ratio of 0.70%. Monster Beverage Corporation ([MNST](#)), a leading energy drinks maker, features in the top ten holdings of the FXG.

Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc. ([DPS](#)), the third-largest soft drink company in the US, is also a part of the XLP, the VDC, and the FXG ETFs.

ETFs are an efficient way to gain diversified exposure to various sectors and broad markets. To learn more, you can read Market Realist's [Macro ETF analysis](#) (<http://marketrealist.com/analysis/etf-analysis/>) page.

Note # 6 (History & Industry Data/Forecasting & Technology)



The non-alcoholic beverage industry plays an important role in the U.S. economy. Our industry has a direct economic impact of more than \$169 billion, provides nearly 240,000 jobs and helps to support hundreds of thousands more that depend, in part, on beverage sales for their livelihoods. Beverage companies and their employees, and the firms and employees indirectly employed by the industry, provide significant tax revenues - \$13.6 billion at the state level and \$22.9 billion at the federal level. In addition, the beverage companies that produce and distribute non-alcoholic beverages in the U.S. and those they directly employ contribute nearly \$1.6 billion to charitable causes in communities across the nation.

The American Beverage Association (ABA) is the trade association that represents America's non-alcoholic beverage industry. ABA was founded in 1919 as the American Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages, and renamed the National Soft Drink Association in 1966. Today the ABA represents hundreds of beverage producers, distributors, franchise companies and support industries. Together, they bring to market hundreds of brands, flavors and packages, including regular and diet soft drinks, bottled water and water beverages, 100 percent juice and juice drinks, sports drinks, energy drinks and ready-to-drink teas.

ABA provides a neutral forum in which members convene to discuss common issues while maintaining their tradition of spirited competition in the American marketplace. The Association also serves as liaison between the industry, government and the public, and provides a unified voice in legislative and regulatory matters. As the national voice for the non-alcoholic refreshment beverage industry, the American Beverage Association staff of legislative, scientific, technical, regulatory, legal and communications experts effectively represent members' interests.



Cognitive health appeals to all demographics

Omega-3s popular ingredient for brain health

By Jamie Popp (Feb 2015)

An estimated 5.2 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and although the majority are older than 65, younger-onset Alzheimer's impacted 200,000 people last year, according to the Alzheimer's Association, Chicago. Furthermore, total payments in 2014 for all individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias were estimated at \$214 billion, the association adds.

Increasingly, attention is being put on brain health and preventative measures such as diet and exercise in line with consumers, particularly baby boomers, expressing concerns about memory loss and dementia. However, ingredients that help consumers maintain their cognitive abilities are emerging to help all age groups to support brain development, focus and more.

"Cognitive health applies to all ages, as newborns and children develop cognition early, [middle-aged people] count on it for their careers, and the older generation strives for maintenance for as long as possible," says Volker Berl, founder and chief executive officer at Oceans Omega, Montvale, N.J. "Consumers are naturally interested in maximizing intake of the right ingredients to maintain cognition for a lifetime, supporting memory, alertness, attention, mood and focus."

Many ingredients are associated with cognitive health, but [omega-3](#) DHA has the strongest body of scientific support, according to Berl. But vitamin D; coenzyme Q10; phosphatidylserine; magnesium; resveratrol; pycnogenol; vitamin E; and botanicals such as ashwagandha, ginkgo biloba, vinpocetine, ginseng and curcumin also are considerations, he adds.

Oceans Omega offers a range of stable omega-3 ingredients that are water soluble and clear because of its stabilization technology and sustainable sources of omega-3s from ingredient partners such as DSM Nutritional Products, Kaiseraugst, Switzerland, and Nutegrity, Irvine, Calif. OTEC 300LDHA delivers life'sDHA from DSM, a fish free, vegetarian and sustainable source of DHA from algae, the company says. OTEC 250CL-K delivers OmegaActiv from Nutegrity, a pure, sustainable, vertically integrated source of omega-3s from menhaden that contains a balanced level of omega-3s DHA, EPA and DPA, according to the company.

Used in clear beverages and liquid nutritionals, OTEC ingredients increase shelf life for finished products at ambient temperatures, the company says. They also are compatible with most beverage processing conditions such as hot fill, cold fill, carbonation and pasteurization, according to the company.

Mental energy

Nutegrity closely follows the advent of brain health and the focus of today's consumers on products that provide a memory boost or afternoon edge.

"The [brain health] category is interesting to us because of aging baby boomers and challenges from cognitive function, but millennials and their brains are hardwired to go fast, and they are looking for some type of edge," says Matt Phillips, chief commercial officer at Nutegrity.

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The focus is not only on memory and improved cognitive function, but also on general brain health as well as [antioxidants](#) and anti-inflammation specific to brain inflammation in relation to diseases, he says.

Nutegrity, a division of Omega Protein Corp., Houston, focuses its primary business in fishing and omega-3s, Phillips says. From a beverage standpoint, milk companies can use omega-3s in their formulations, but the company also produces dairy protein as well as a line of nutraceuticals.

"Most of the work we're doing is focused on antioxidants and higher concentrations of omega-3s," Phillips says. "At one time, most companies were doing product development and spending time on ingredients, and now they are looking to ingredient suppliers to ... come to the table with a turnkey solution."

Focus formulas and energy drinks openly tout the cognitive benefits of the ingredients to appeal to a wide audience, but the claims have to be backed by scientific evidence or beverages risk being pulled from store shelves. As a result, many companies dedicate considerable time substantiating new and existing claims and discovering ways to use their ingredients based on findings in clinical trials.

Oceans Omega closely follows studies related to adolescents and brain health. For example, to determine the effects of algal DHA supplementation on reading and behavior in healthy school-aged children, researchers conducted the Docosahexaenoic Acid Oxford Learning and Behavior (DOLAB) Trial and reported that supplementation with 600 mg each day with algal DHA for 16 weeks improved reading and behavior in healthy school-aged children, aged 7 to 9 years old, with low reading scores.

"We work on educating the end producer," says Karen Todd, director of global brand marketing at New York City-based Kyowa Hakko U.S.A. Inc. The company's Cognizin product features citicoline, which increases cellular synthesis and energy, she says. Ingredients such as Cognizin are associated with boosting brain energy, supporting mitochondrial health, and boosting levels of ATP, according to the company's research. This ingredient also is associated with increased focus and concentration as well as memory storage and recall.

"We do clinical studies on raw materials [with healthy subjects], and results of that help us identify what levels are appropriate to make claims," Todd says. "The producer and finished product company do their pre-market test, but they're looking at the science behind it to support their claims from the start."

Kyowa Hakko is replicating clinical trials done with millennials, pre-menopausal women and baby boomers with more targeted groups including adolescents and athletes.

Futureceuticals, Momence, Ill., also sees the value of clinical trials and is in the midst of several that involve its ingredients including CoffeeBerry coffee fruit, a line of powders and concentrates of the fruit of the coffee plant, including the bean.

"We consider demographics when we're choosing outcomes to focus on for our claims," says Brad Evers, vice president of business development. "In the case of CoffeeBerry coffee fruit extract, we discovered that it has a unique capacity to increase serum levels of brain-derived neurotropic factor (BDNF), which is a key neuro-protein involved in cognition, mood and other key neuro-processes. We chose to focus on cognition and mood, given the enormous public interest in cognitive and mental health at all age levels. Baby boomers frequently cite cognitive health as their No. 1 concern, and younger people are motivated to take action now to help ensure a higher quality of life as they age."

Major research facilities around the globe are focusing on BDNF, and Futureceuticals has two studies that indicate that coffee fruit stimulates the body to produce BDNF, which is something brewed coffee does not do, according to the company.

"Our research on our coffee fruit products is at the forefront of new discoveries for cognitive health," Evers says. "CoffeeBerry meets the demand for functional beverage ingredients that are natural and offer a value proposition."

Focus on claims

Regulations as well as the flavor of the ingredients in their natural state can have an impact on beverages designed to improve memory and focus or reduce the impact of aging on the brain.

"The biggest trend with cognitive ingredients is really attention given to caffeine and energy drinks by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and [the decision to] crack down on amounts," Kyowa Hakko's Todd says. "Cognizin is a non-stimulant without negative side effects. Energy drinks use Cognizin [as a replacement for caffeine], and many companies are looking to reformulate and include it at the efficacious dose."

But special treatment is required for cognitive ingredients to be beverage compatible, shelf stable, soluble and taste free. "Antioxidant beverages, focus beverages, and general brain-health and protein beverage ingredients are bitter, and [beverage-makers] have to figure out a way to mask [them]," Nutegrity's Phillips says. "Another big challenge is solubility, and we're finding ways through agglomeration or other techniques to make them suspend in a liquid."

Oceans Omega is able to counteract the instability and protect them from oxidizing with new technologies, but aftertaste still is a challenge.

"Polyunsaturated fatty acids have the propensity to oxidize quickly and develop very repugnant odor and taste offnotes," Berl says. "Many [omega-3] products still have a fishy or marine aftertaste, and their manufacturing requires an increased complexity in processing and handling these sensitive ingredients in the production processes."

Certain nutrients also just don't mix well, according to Russ Hazen, North American premix innovation manager for Fortitech Inc., Schenectady, N.Y.

“Certain iron compounds can have unfavorable effects on product quality and consumer acceptance by increasing the oxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids,” Hazen says. “On the other hand, inclusion of suitable amounts of antioxidants, like vitamin E, is important to protect polyunsaturated fatty acids from oxidation. In liquid beverages, adverse interactions between calcium and phosphorus can be tricky and can result in unsightly mineral precipitation products under certain conditions”

When bitterness is a factor, masking agents can address this issue as well, according to Kyowa Hakko’s Todd. Futureceuticals, however, will provide its bitter CoffeeBerry products and extracts as-is because the more natural state is preferred by its customers, Evers says.

2016 New Product Development Outlook for beverages

Organic named top trend for new beverages in new year

By Jessica Jacobsen (Jan 2016)

This past year, Americans finally got a chance to see whether any the 2015 references in “Back to the Future Part II” would come true. Although the Chicago Cubs attempted to make the World Series prediction a reality, they fell short. However, in business, prognostication is less about fantasizing about the future and more about anticipating how your products and services can benefit, or even shape, the future. In Beverage Industry’s New Product Development Outlook 2015 Study, respondents helped to shed light on what they think will be the latest product attribute trends, flavors and much more in 2016.

According to survey-takers, “[organic](#)” will be the latest trend in the new year. With only 10 percent of respondents listing it as a low need/interest, the remaining 90 percent indicated its prevalence. The trend led all other product attribute interests with 38 percent of survey-takers listing it as a latest trend. This is vast change from last year’s study where it came in at No. 8 and only 18 percent listed it as a latest trend.

Maintaining its No. 2 status, “natural” had only 4 percent of respondents list the product attribute interest as a low need/interest while 34 percent named it as a latest trend.

“High protein,” last year’s No. 1 product attribute interest, fell to No. 18 with only 6 percent indicating it as a latest trend. Also falling down the list was “convenience.” Last year’s No. 4 product attribute interest, which fell to No. 9 in this year’s survey, “convenience” only had 4 percent name it as a low need/interest; however, 66 percent listed convenience as a high need/interest. Only 12 percent named it as a latest trend.

In addition to “high protein,” “vitamin, mineral fortified” (No. 10 last year) and “probiotic/prebiotic” (No. 6 last year) fell out of the Top 10 this year. Replacing these product attribute interests were “country of origin labeling” (No. 6), “ethnic” (No. 8) and “cognitive health” (No. 10).

Buzzing about flavors

When developing new products, many note that taste is king. With flavor playing such a vital role, this attribute can garner a lot of attention.

Different from previous years, this year's survey asked respondents whether they used berry flavors in 2015, which flavors and how many. The same question framework was asked for non-fruit flavors and fruit flavors. Last year, survey-takers only were asked which flavors they used in their new products.

For berry flavors used in 2015, three-quarters of respondents indicated that these flavors were part of their new product releases. On average, 3.3 berry flavors were used by each company. The most popular berry flavor was raspberry with nearly three-quarters of survey-takers listing it. Strawberry came in second with 55 percent naming the berry flavor, and half of respondents used cranberry in their formulations in 2015.

Additional berry flavors listed were [blueberry](#) (42 percent), blackberry (39 percent), berry (37 percent) and acai (21 percent). No respondents named maqui berry, while 11 percent selected "other" for berry flavor options.

For non-fruit flavors, three-quarters of survey-takers stated that their companies utilized these flavor options in 2015 with an average of 4.2 non-fruit flavors used by each company.

Fifty percent of responding companies selected chocolate and vanilla as top selections. Cinnamon and mint also were popular non-fruit flavors in 2015 as each was used by 45 percent of survey-takers. Rounding out the Top 5 was coffee with 42 percent.

Tea flavors also were notable choices with green tea (39 percent), tea – other (39 percent) and black tea (29 percent) listed by survey-takers. Also receiving double-digit responses were hibiscus (21 percent), root beer (21 percent) and cola (16 percent). Aloe, the only single-digit response, garnered a 3 percent response. Sixteen percent of respondents selected "other" for their non-fruit flavors used in 2015.

For fruit flavors used in 2015, 86 percent of respondents noted these were part of their formulations. An average of eight fruit flavors were used by each company. With more than half of respondents indicating use, lemon (56 percent), mango (56 percent) and cherry (53 percent) were the top selections. Apple and orange rounded out the Top 5 with each having 57 percent naming the fruit flavor.

Pineapple also was a popular choice in 2015, with 44 percent of survey-takers listing the flavor. Lime, peach and pomegranate each were named by 42 percent of respondents while 40 percent indicated they used coconut in 2015.

Not utilized as frequently in 2015 were dragon fruit (7 percent), papaya (7 percent) and apricot (2 percent).

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When it comes to the top sellers in 2015, it looks as though fruit and berry flavors were the most popular in 2015. According to respondents, 20 percent indicated that raspberry was a top-selling flavor in 2015 followed by cherry and orange, each with 16 percent. Apple and blueberry rounded out the Top 5 with 14 percent each.

In comparison to last year's survey, chocolate was the No. 1 top-seller for 2014 with 29 percent followed by vanilla (24 percent), mango (22 percent), green tea (13 percent) and raspberry (13 percent). This year, chocolate just cracked the Top 20 with 9 percent of respondents naming it a top-seller in 2015. This was a six-way tie with black tea, coffee, ginger, lime and root beer, which each were named by 9 percent of survey-takers.

Green tea took the biggest fall as only 7 percent of respondents named it as a top-seller in 2015.

On the upward trend was cherry. The No. 2 top-selling flavor used in 2015, the fruit flavor barely cracked the Top 20 last year. Tea – other flavors also were more successful in 2015 vs. 2014. With 14 percent of respondents naming it a top-seller, tea – other made the Top 10 in 2015. However, only 4 percent of survey-takers listed it as a top-selling flavor in 2014.

Transitioning into the new year, fruit flavors are topping the list of the anticipated top-selling flavors for 2016. Raspberry once again leads all with 30 percent of respondents expecting this will be a top seller next year. Lemon and pomegranate tied for No. 2 with each having 20 percent of survey-takers naming these fruit flavors.

In contrast to last year's survey, in which the Top 3 anticipated top-selling flavors all were non-fruit flavors: chocolate (29 percent), coffee (22 percent) and vanilla (20 percent). This year, the first non-fruit flavor listed was tea – other, which was in a three-way tie with strawberry and mango for No. 4 as each had 18 percent of survey-takers name them.

Chocolate remained in the Top 10, but only 16 percent of respondents named it as an anticipated top-seller. Vanilla dropped six percentage points with only 14 percent of survey-takers expecting it to be a top-seller in 2016. Coffee, however, had larger drop as only 6 percent listed it in this year's survey.

Both making large gains this year are blueberry and cherry. Each was named by 7 percent last year as an anticipated top-seller for 2015; however, that increased to 16 percent for 2016.

Creating success

Strategizing for the new calendar year, respondents to Beverage Industry's survey suggest that new alcohol releases will be common for new product development in 2016.

More than half of survey-takers (56 percent) stated that their respective companies most likely will develop new wine, beer and spirit products. Water, juice was the next area listed with 40 percent of respondents naming these categories.

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This is nearly double from last year's survey in which wine, beer and spirits tied for No. 4 with water, juice with each having only 24 percent of respondents naming them.

Last year, dairy-based drinks/alternatives were listed as the most likely area of new beverage development with 42 percent of survey-takers naming this area. This year, it came in last with only 15 percent indicating possible product development for the category. Sports/energy drinks and coffee, tea also experienced drops

in comparison with the 2014 survey. This year, 19 percent of respondents named sports/energy drinks as an area of new beverage development (36 percent in 2014), while 17 percent of survey-takers listed coffee, tea (33 percent in 2014).

New product idea generation also experienced an opposite response compared with last year's survey. Three-quarters of respondents indicated that customer demand was a source for new products while 68 percent listed consumer trends. In contrast, more than three-quarters of respondents named consumer trends followed by customer demand in the 2014 survey.

However, one of the larger changes was in research and development (R&D) departments. Last year, this idea source was No. 3 with 62 percent of respondents listing it. For this year's respondents, it was less influential as only 42 percent named it.

Other sources that topped the R&D department were in-house through teams and meetings (56 percent), marketing and sales (54 percent), chief executive officer/upper management (46 percent) and consumer research/testing (44 percent).

Natural influence

As consumer preferences continue to evolve, beverage-makers are tasked with meeting their needs and demands.

When it comes to flavors for 2016, an average of 83 percent of respondents note they will be using natural flavors in their formulations while a mean of 17 percent will use artificial flavors. Among those who are planning to use natural flavors, half of survey-takers note that this is an increase from the previous year. Some of the top reasons for the increase were consumer demand, health reasons and market research.

These numbers are a slight shift from last year's survey in which an average of 70 percent of respondents indicated they would use natural-flavor in 2015 with a mean of 30 percent planning to use artificial flavors. The increase among natural flavor users last year, however, was similar to this year as 47 percent noted it was an increase. The reasons for the increase were slightly different with cleaner label, consumer demand, better quality and taste, and industry trends listed by respondents.

Natural colors also continue as a popular attribute for new product development. An average of 80 percent of respondents plan to use natural colors in their new beverages for 2016 with a mean of 20 percent using artificial colors in their new formulations. This is up from last year's results as an

average of 70 percent planned to use natural colors in 2015 with a mean of 30 percent using artificial colors.

In this year's survey, 38 percent of those who indicated that they will use natural colors in their new products noted that this is an increase. Among the top reasons listed for the increase were consumer demand, trend in market and health reasons.

In comparison with the 2014 survey, 43 percent of respondents who indicated that they planned to use natural colors stated that this was an increase. Top reasons remained similar with consumer demand, clean label and industry trends as the reasons named.

Sharing the work

Company size among survey-takers seems to continue to represent entrepreneurial operations.

The mean and median of the number of employees for this year's survey are 501 and 23 employees, respectively. This is slightly different from last year when survey-takers reported a mean of 201 employees and a median of 63 employees. Going back even further, this year's employee mean and median still is significantly smaller than results from the 2013 survey in which the numbers were 1,278 and 180 employees for the mean and median, respectively.

Similar to last year's survey, the smaller operations resulted in a more intimate setting for R&D teams. Nearly three-quarters of respondents indicated that they have fewer than 10 employees involved in the new-product-development process with a median of four employees involved. Last year, 82 percent of respondents noted having fewer than 10 employees working on new product development; however, the median of four employees being involved was consistent.

Although beverage manufacturers have dedicated teams for their new product development, they still outsource a portion of the process. One-third of respondents indicated that they outsource a portion of the work (up from 29 percent last year).

Among those who outsource part of the process, market research is outsourced by more than half (53 percent) followed by prototype development (47 percent) and concept/product testing (41 percent).

This is a notable shift from last year's responses in which prototype development was the No. 1 outsourced process with 62 percent naming it. It was followed by concept and product testing (46 percent) and market research (38 percent).

Although team approach still is noted by a majority of respondents (82 percent), it is down from last year's survey in which 93 percent noted this development approach.

Among those who indicated using a team approach in this year's survey, sales/marketing (80 percent) and upper management (78 percent) were the departments involved. Other areas noted by respondents were production (56 percent), R&D (49 percent) and customers (44 percent).

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Although sales/marketing was ranked No. 1 by last year's survey-takers, R&D was No. 2 with 79 percent listing it. Upper management was No. 3 at 62 percent.

Among respondents who noted upper management involvement, 100 percent stated that the chief executive officer was included in that process compared with 88 percent in 2014. When noting the roles of chief executive officers, 41 percent said leader/decision-maker followed by oversees/advisory/guidance, which was listed by a quarter of survey-takers. Last year, slightly more than a quarter noted oversees/advisory/guidance as the chief executive officer's role. Slightly more than a quarter of 2014 survey-takers also listed team member.

Beverage-makers also continue to get input from their supplier partners. Slightly less than half of respondents indicated that they involve their suppliers in the new product development process. This is down from last year in which 58 percent noted supplier involvement.

Among those who work with their suppliers, three-quarters of survey-takers note involvement with samples followed by provide raw materials/ingredients (71 percent) and technical support/expertise (67 percent).

Inception/idea stage through completion and beginning stage through completion were the two most-noted stages in which suppliers were involved at 38 and 46 percent, respectively. Only 17 percent indicated involving suppliers after formulation through completion, while no respondents added supplier input in the final stages.

However, the length of time to develop a new product seems to be moving at a faster pace as 8.2 months was the average product development timeframe, with a quarter of respondents noting this was faster than previous years. Last year, mean product development timeframe from inception to launch was 11 months with less than one-third indicating that was faster than in the past.

All of these processes might keep beverage-makers busy, but that is not holding them back. On average, 21 new products were developed in 2015 with approximately 12 being released in market, an average of 55 percent of developed products were released. Of those released, an average of nearly two were considered successful in 2015, which equates to a 7 percent average of successful products developed and a 13 percent average of successful products of those released.

In comparison, a mean of 24 products were developed in 2014 with an average of nine that were released, a 38 percent average of products released of those developed. Among those, a mean of five products were considered successful in 2014. This equated to a 21 percent average of successful products of those developed and a 56 percent average of successful products of those released.

2016 expectations

As beverage-makers usher in the new year, new product development is on many minds.

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Half of respondents indicated that they plan to launch more products into the marketplace in 2016 compared with 2015. Among those who expect to see an increase of new product launches, the average percentage increase of product launches is 57 percent.

Last year's respondents had slightly more than half note intentions to launch more products in 2015 than 2014; however, the average percentage increase only was 38 percent.

Planning remains split as half of survey-takers have a definitive new-product-development plan; however, assessment has a slightly higher uptick with 60 percent of respondents who have post-launch assessments. In comparison, 60 percent had definitive plans and 76 percent had post-launch assessments in the 2014 survey.

One area that continues to show strong variances among survey-takers is total cost to develop new products. With a recorded minimum of \$100 and maximum of \$2 million, 41 percent of new products fall in the \$1,000-\$19,000 range. The median total cost came to \$17,500. This is strong contrast to last year's survey in which the recorded minimum was \$50 with the maximum at \$1.5 million, with the median total cost at \$37,500.

When it came to R&D budgets, respondents this year also stipulated a lower price tag as only 32 percent planned to increase their budget compared with 44 percent last year. BI

Beverage Industry's New Product Development survey was conducted by BNP Media's Market Research Division. The online survey was conducted between Oct. 22 and Nov. 6, 2015, and included a systematic random sample of the domestic circulation of Beverage Industry.

Of the respondents, 34 percent process beer, 28 percent process coffee and tea, 26 percent process juice and juice-type drinks, 22 percent process water, 22 percent process wine, 20 percent process spirits, 16 percent process energy drinks, 12 percent process dairy-based drinks, 12 percent process carbonated soft drinks and 8 percent process sports drinks.

Seventy percent of respondents were from companies with less than \$10 million in annual revenue. Another 8 percent of respondents also were from companies with revenue between \$10 million and \$50 million. A total of 2 percent were from companies in the mid-size range of \$50 million to less than \$100 million. Ten percent were from companies with revenue between \$100 million to less than \$500 million. In the \$500 million to less than \$1 billion range were 2 percent of respondents. Representing the large-size range of more than \$1 billion in company revenue were 8 percent of respondents.

Males accounted for 72 percent of the respondents, and the average age equated to 44. For industry experience, 2 percent had less than one year; 14 percent indicated one to three years; 36 percent reported four to 10 years; 22 percent said 11-20 years; 20 percent listed 21-30 years; and 6 percent had 31-40 years of experience.

Regionally, 32 percent said they currently live in the South, 24 percent indicated the Midwest, 20 percent listed the Northeast, 20 percent reported living in the Western portion of the United States and 4 percent stated they reside in U.S. territories.

Beverage Industry launches new app

Introductory video shows how to use Bev Industry Mobile



By Jessica Jacobson (March 14, 2014)

According to statistics portal Statista Inc., an estimated 140 million Americans are smartphone users, up from 121.4 million in 2012. The research firm anticipates this number will continue to grow and eclipse the 200 million mark by 2017.

Although the popularity of smartphones is not breaking news, it always leads to interesting conversations. One area that seems to be standard with smartphone owners is the use of mobile applications (apps). Even if you don't have a smartphone, the app world might be impacting you without you knowing it. Last year, for instance, I attended a wedding in which the bride and groom met through a dating app.

Mobilestatistics.com reports that the total app downloads for Android devices lead all devices with 50 billion, followed closely by Apple devices with 48 billion and Blackberry devices at 3 billion. Windows Marketplace download statistics are not available yet, it reports.

With those kinds of statistics, it's no surprise that beverage brands are developing their own apps in order to reach consumers. This past fall, Seagram's Gin, a brand of Pernod Ricard USA, launched its new Ginsider mobile app, which allows consumers to scan Seagram's Peach and Pineapple Twisted Gin bottles to reveal exclusive videos and share them with friends through social media. And recently, as part of its "There's Power in Every Game" campaign centered around the 2014 FIFA World Cup, The Coca-Cola Co.'s Powerade brand teamed up with fitness app Endomondo to invite consumers to participate in a series of challenges for the chance to win prizes, including tickets to the FIFA World Cup tournament in Brazil.

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And now, Beverage Industry is following suit. I'm pleased to announce that Beverage Industry has launched Bev Industry Mobile for iOS and Android-based phones and tablets. Now, all the content and news that you enjoy in Beverage Industry and at bevindustry.com can be viewed on your mobile devices through Bev Industry Mobile.

You can log on to bevindustry.com/apps to download the app for iPhone, iPad or Android devices. For Apple users, the app is compatible with iOS 5.1 and later, and Android owners require version 4.0 or later. If your device has neither of these, don't worry; we have developed mobile.bevindustry.com, a mobile website. This page can be saved on your device as an HTML5 app.

In order to help you navigate all of the features, Managing Editor Stephanie Cernivec also filmed a how-to video, which can be viewed on our BevIndustry TV portal or on our YouTube Channel, youtube.com/beverageindustry.

And if you have more questions, visit bevindustry.com/mobilehelp, which contains a list of frequently asked questions as well as a mobile support contact icon that is located on the right-hand side of the page.

Happy mobile apping!

Five major trends for the non-alcoholic beverage industry in 2019

by Heather Burrellon, July, 2019, FoodBev Media

Consumer awareness for both the environment and their own health and wellness are two important factors dictating the future of the beverage industry in 2019.

Millennials are also set to be a key driver of these trends. According to a survey by UCL, 36% of 16-24-year-olds in full-time education are now abstaining from alcohol.

Beverage companies must now keep up with this cultural shift by innovating new products, not only in the form of non-alcoholic options, but that also align with health, wellness and sustainability trends.

With this in mind, let's take a look at what the top 5 non-alcoholic beverage trends might be this year.

Functionality

The beverage industry has recently seen a rise in the number of new products with functional benefits. From stress-relievers to immune system health to beauty, consumers are now seeking more from their drinks than simply hydration.

Collagen, which is important for skin, hair and nail health, has been a popular ingredient for many new ready-to-drink (RTD) beverages, such as [Protein Water Co](#) and [Vital Proteins](#).

Major beverage brands, such as the Coca-Cola Company, have also jumped on this trend, releasing additions to its [VitaminWater range](#) and a [new energy drink](#) combining caffeine, guarana extracts and B vitamins.

This year has also seen an abundance of CBD-infused beverages being introduced and their functionality as pain reducers and stress relievers have made them one of the most popular forms of functional beverages. In August, we will be taking a more in-depth look at the trends, acceptance and legislation around the world regarding CBD drinks.

Fermented drinks

Fermented drinks are probiotic-rich and have been found to contain a profusion of benefits, particularly when it comes to gut health. The sheer growth in popularity of this category over the past year shows no signs of stopping anytime soon.

According to BCC Research, the international fermented ingredients market could grow to be worth \$28.4 billion in 2020 (an annual growth of 3.4 percent).

Kombucha, a fermented tea filled with live bacteria to aid in healthy digestion, stands out as having a big part in this growth. Research by Adroit Market Research predicts that the kombucha market will grow at 13% CAGR in North America and hit \$3.5bn by 2025. Kombucha tends to come in RTD form, such as [Revive Kombucha's new sparkling canned kombucha](#), which allows kombucha to be more accessible to consumers.

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Fermented kefir drinks are rich in probiotics and can be used to treat digestive problems and help boost immunity. From [Bio-tiful Dairy releasing new flavours of their kefir smoothies](#) to [Captain Kombucha launching a line of sparkling water kefir drinks](#), new kefir product releases are rife in the market.

Personalisation

There is a growing demand for brands to cater to the increasingly-complex desires of consumers by creating personal experiences for their audiences with ‘drinks on demand’.

[Millennials are one of the major drivers of this trend](#) as they lead the path with health, wellness and convenience needs. They want unique experiences that go beyond the product itself, so beverage brands have needed to step up their game with their innovations.

Many companies have responded by offering plant-based beverage options, for instance. [Stok Cold Brew's new plant-based cold brew coffees](#) are an example of a brand reacting to both the vegan and cold brew trends this year.

In April, [PepsiCo](#) responded to consumer demand for choice and personalisation by releasing a hydration platform that is completely customisable for users to create their own drink and set hydration goals via a smartphone app.

Alcohol-free alternatives

In 2018, alcohol consumption fell by 1.5% around the world, according to IWSR. Consumers are making an active choice to reduce alcohol consumption, which opens the market for drinks that appeal to both teetotal and consumers reducing their intake of alcohol.

This category has hence evolved beyond soft drinks or orange juice as an alternative for these consumers during social occasions with friends. Earlier this year, [Sparklingly Sober launched an alcohol-free fizzy wine](#) alternative and [Coca-Cola launched a range of alcohol-free sparkling drinks](#) aimed at adults.

From Peroni to Heineken, 0.0% beers are appearing everywhere, some even [infused with cannabis](#) instead, going hand-in-hand with wellness-centric non-alcoholic beverage trends.

Health conscious consumers are one of the main targets within this category and many brands are looking to capitalise on this prominent trend of healthy living.

Sustainability

Sustainability is currently one of the key issues of importance impacting the wider food and beverage industry and beyond, and it is set to stay that way. Consumers are increasingly aware of the impact they have on the environment and are seeking ways to actively make a difference.

In September 2018, various leading bottled water and soft drinks manufacturers [announced goals](#) to ensure water and soft drinks packaging is made from 100% recyclable or reusable material by 2030, and an aim to achieve at least 70% recycled material by 2025.

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Other leading beverage brands have since set out similar sustainability visions. For instance, [PepsiCo announced its plans to use 25% recycled content](#) in its plastic packaging by 2025.

Reducing plastic waste has been a major part of beverage company's sustainability goals, with [Coca-Cola Amatil](#) recently producing carbonated soft drink bottles made from 100% recycled plastic.

With consumers growing cautious about the number of plastic bottles they are buying, the market for canned beverages has increased and it has been estimated that the beverage cans market will grow at a CAGR of 3.19% from 2018-2022.

Low- And No-Alcohol Beverages Are A Growing Trend Worldwide, Says New Report

Thomas Pellechia, Forbes, February 2019

According to the [International Wines and Spirits Record](#)(IWSR) based in the United Kingdom, research for its 2019 “Low- and No-Alcohol Report” suggests the recent “Dry January” movement is a sign that health and wellness trends are “gaining traction across the world...” and “...providing new opportunities for the global beverage alcohol industry.”

If that statement seems like a paradox it isn’t for producers of low-alcohol or no-alcohol products.

Brandy Rand, President, IWSR, United States, says, “The rise in mindful drinking, along with health and wellness, is a trend that is here to stay. In order to quantify this growing space, our clients asked us to provide a global benchmark for low-and no-alcohol in order to define the opportunities and understand the underlying consumer motivations.”

The resulting IWSR report claims that in the U.S. 52% of adults who drink alcohol are either trying now or have tried before to reduce their alcohol intake. The report indicates, however, “...at present, the low-and no-alcohol sector is poorly served, with few clear category leaders...in the U.K., for instance, low/no alcohol brands represent only 1.3% of the country’s total beverage alcohol market. In the U.S., that number is even smaller, at 0.5%.”

You might ask, if people want to drink alcohol-free products, why not go for soft drinks?

The answer is: They like the taste of beer, wine and spirits, not necessarily in that order.

For this report, IWSR surveyed bars and restaurants worldwide. They found most bars that offered non-alcoholic beer did not offer non-alcoholic wine. The report also states that the low-alcohol beer category shrinks while the non-alcoholic beer category grows. Surprisingly, the study indicates retailers offer “significantly more selection of low- and no-alcohol products than bars and restaurants.” Could that be a reflection of bartender ambivalence to no/low-alcohol products?

The report identifies some specific market trends.

In the U.S., while just over half the consumer respondents said they were trying to reduce their alcohol intake , 70% said they have yet to consider drinking low/no-alcohol beverages. But IWSR claims key

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beverage alcohol companies are investing in the category with an aim to attract new and younger consumers. Part of their motivation is a moderate growth in wine and a decline in beer sales.

ISWR predicts the largest low/no-alcohol gain in the U.S. will be ready-to-drink products , with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of +38.8% by 2022—wine CAGR is predicted to grow +17.7%, and spirits +7.1%. Although beer is currently the U.S. low/no-alcohol leader, its CAGR is predicted to grow just +5.6% by 2022.

According to the survey, 65% of U.K. alcohol consumers aged 25 to 34 “are trying or have tried to cut back on their alcohol intake,” but 61% of consumers “indicated they have not considered drinking low/no-alcohol products.” The report concludes its result indicates great potential for converting drinkers.

The report points out that non-alcoholic beer wasn’t even on the radar in U.K. pubs and supermarkets ten years ago. Today, some London bars have a non-alcoholic beer dispensing machine on site. The U.K. low/no-alcohol category CAGR is expected to grow across the board by 2022: spirits +81.1%; ready-to-drink products +44.3%; cider +13%; wine +6.6%; and beer +4.9%.

The report claims in one of the largest wine-producing countries, Spain, 95% of Spanish consumers said they are trying to reduce their alcohol consumption, and 80% have already tried or would like to try low/no-alcohol products; about 50% of bars and 60% of restaurants surveyed in Spain offer them. The reason offered for these developments includes strict drunk-driving laws alongside heightened health consciousness. IWSR predicts by 2022 low/no-alcohol CARG in Spain will grow too: spirits +36.8%; wine +19.8%; beer +6.7%.

While total beverage alcohol consumption has been in decline in Germany, low/no-alcohol grows. Consumers have access to an alcohol-free searchable database in all major beverage e-commerce platforms in Germany. By 2022 the category is predicted to grow in spirits by +14.4%; ready-to-drink +13.3%; cider +11.4%; wine (driven by sparkling) +4%; beer +1.6%.

IWSR bills itself as the leading source of data and intelligence on the international beverage alcohol market. Its database captures alcohol consumption (brands, trends, pricing) and sales patterns across 157 countries. For this survey, IWSR analysts captured data from 1,600 beverage alcohol professionals and “several thousand” consumers the world over.

Five Beverage Trends for 2019 and Beyond

by Pepsico FoodService, November, 2018

As 2018 draws to a close, it’s time for operators to look at what’s trending for the New Year. With consumers more interested than ever in trying new flavors and ingredients, restaurants have the chance to really get creative with drink menus. So what beverage trends will drive traffic and growth in 2019? Here are five things to watch for:

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1. Sour

Although Americans are sweet on sweets, they are developing a taste for sour. For example, sour beer styles such as goses, lambics and wild ales are proliferating. And this summer, Sonic Drive-In offered a Pickle Juice Slushie for an interesting summer sip.

It's no surprise, then, that sales of kombucha are on the rise, thanks to the fermented drink's tangy taste and purported health benefits. According to Technomic's 2018 Beverage report, 43% of consumers who say they are more likely to purchase beverages that contain probiotics. These types of drinks are winning offerings for operators.

Other sour options gaining traction on menus are shrubs, switchels and drinking ciders. KeVita Apple Cider Vinegar Tonic, for example, emphasizes its probiotic content in flavors such as ginseng and turmeric-ginger.

2. Mocktails and sessionable (low-alcohol) drinks

Up until recently, mocktails have been an afterthought on most bar and restaurant menus. Today, however, bartenders are employing the same ingenuity and techniques to developing the low- and no-alcohol side of the menu.

Often, that means using flavorful fruit juices and sodas as a base for these drinks, as mixologists look for quality and vivid flavors. Technomic's *2018 Beverage* report finds that 67% of consumers say they would be more likely to purchase beverages that are 100% fruit juice, too, while 54% say the same about handcrafted beverages, so non-alcohol drinks can get a boost by being menued as "fresh-squeezed" or "all-natural."

Additionally, tea is often a component in sessionable low-alcohol drinks, because it offers floral and earthy base notes.

3. Trending fruit flavors

Among the usual sweet flavors found on menus, unique fruit flavors, such as cactus, are taking the beverage menu by storm. More specifically, spiny fruits such as prickly pear and dragon fruit are popping up on beverage menus. Prickly pears are a seeded fruit that yields a ruby juice, while dragon fruit—also called pitaya or strawberry pear—is attracting the attention of consumers.

When it comes to refreshing beverages, citrus is a perennial favorite flavor. That accounts for the appeal of orange juice, lemonade and citrus-flavored soft drinks. However, consumers are exploring more unique varieties—bergamot orange, yuzu, calamansi, citron, makrut lime, pomelo, Meyer lemon, blood orange, ugli fruit (a Jamaican form of the tangelo) and more.

According to Technomic's *2018 Beverage* report, one of the traffic drivers for purchasing a drink at a restaurant is consumers wanting to try a new drink flavor, so for operators looking to boost interest in beverages, these new and unique ingredients and flavors can be a big win.

4. Cold brew

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This cool category remains popular—according to Technomic's *Beverage* report, more than a quarter of consumers (27%) say they would consider ordering cold brew if it was available. Although a few restaurant operators are brewing on-premise, it's easier to satisfy the thirst for this smooth, rich coffee with ready-to-drink packaging, which offers consumers more options. Nitro cold brew is the latest twist; offered from the tap, nitrogen adds a creamy mouthfeel. In canned coffee, widgets can provide the same texture.

Iced coffee, too, is attracting more fans, who often choose ready-to-drink options for convenience and taste. Iced coffee is generally offered either black, with milk, lightly sweetened or in flavors such as vanilla or cocoa.

5. Sparkling

In the water category, sparkling water is growing, driven in part by consumers who are concerned about sugar but still looking to satisfy their craving for carbonation. That's the strategy behind the launch of bubbly, PepsiCo's foray into sparkling water. bubbly comes in eight real fruit flavors with no sweeteners or calories but plenty of sparkle.

Operators looking to harness these trends and turn them into more traffic or higher check averages should not only offer beverages that feature unique flavors, low-alcohol (or no-alcohol), sparkling water and more, but they should also make sure to promote these types of drinks on social media. By ensuring diners know that new and exciting drinks are available, operators can count on attracting new and repeat drink customers.

Innovation Filled the U.S. Non-Alcoholic Beverage Market in 2018

Convenience Store news, January 2019



NEW YORK — When it comes to non-alcoholic beverages, U.S. consumers have a thirst for trying new products.

In 2018, innovation filled the U.S. non-alcoholic beverage market, with new products — including new product launches, brand extensions and new flavor offerings — accounting for 10 percent, or \$5.8 billion, of the \$56 billion beverage category, according to Nielsen.

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When looking across the calendar year, Nielsen Innovation Measurement Activity data found that July was the heaviest month for product innovation with 621 new innovations and November was the lightest with 169 new products.

Innovation was widespread across the non-alcoholic beverage category, but buzz also surrounded the invigoration of beverage staple categories such as milk, water and tea. For example:

- Dollar sales increased 17 percent from last year in the \$2.1 billion sparkling water category mostly due to new players and new flavor offerings.
- The \$1.7 billion milk alternatives category saw consumers opting for alternatives like almond milk (up 12 percent in dollar sales growth vs. last year) and oat milk (up 69 percent vs. last year).
- Kombucha, a \$433 million category, revitalized the tea market with new, compelling offers.
-

In the ongoing quest for improved health, water remained a top choice for consumers in 2018, with the staple experiencing a 6-percent increase in sales over the past year, pushing total sales to more than \$16.1 billion. The raise in water sales hits well above the 2.4-percent growth that the overall beverage category experienced and was led by strong demand for both sparkling and value-added waters, Nielsen noted.

Bubbles were a top innovation characteristic in 2018, as 71 percent of new items to the category were sparkling waters, followed by water items with "calorie free" claims.

Innovation will continue to be a play an important role in the non-alcoholic beverage category in 2019; but, to be successful, U.S. beverage manufacturers will need to continue to work hard to maintain consumer interest and introduce meaningful innovation to stay competitive and relevant in today's increasingly crowded product marketplace, Nielsen stated.

Report: U.S. Sales of Non-Alcoholic Beverages Grow More than \$2 Billion in 2017

by Coca-Cola Journey, May 2018

A special report issued today by industry publication *Beverage Digest* shows that Americans spent about \$2 billion more on nonalcoholic beverages in 2017, as companies like Coca-Cola continued to bring more new products to market and innovate in established core brands.

Per *Beverage Digest*, carbonated soft drinks (including energy drinks) and bottled water drove the lion's share of growth, with each adding around \$1 billion in retail value to the industry's overall \$135.7 billion in sales last year.

Coca-Cola North America's top brands showed some of the strongest retail sales growth in the report, with Trademark Coca-Cola (which includes Coca-Cola, Coke Zero Sugar, Coca-Cola Life and Diet Coke) growing 1%; Trademark Sprite (which includes Sprite and Sprite Zero) growing 6.8%; DASANI growing 2.5% and the company's energy drink partner, Monster, growing retail sales nearly 11%.

A core part of [Coke's strategy in North America](#) has been responding to evolving consumer tastes by moving from volume to value as a core metric, fueled by a focus on premium offerings, beverage innovation and smaller bottles and cans with less sugar and calories per package. Through this

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strategy, Coca-Cola North America [grew reported revenues in its flagship market 4%](#) last year with value growth across many key brands in its portfolio.

For instance, the retail value of Coke Zero, which [relaunched as Coke Zero Sugar](#) in August 2017, grew 6.1% and climbed to be the ninth-largest carbonated soft drink brand in North America by retail value, up a spot from 2016.

"This report highlights the continued momentum of our brands in North America across a wide array of beverage categories – from waters, to teas, to juices and sparkling soft drinks," said Jim Dinkins, president, Coca-Cola North America. "We are working to build on last year's momentum with even more exciting innovation for consumers in 2018, such as the recent relaunch of Diet Coke, the continued success of Coke Zero Sugar and the introduction of many other new products throughout our portfolio."

According to *Beverage Digest*, the total U.S. beverage industry added \$2.1 billion in retail value in 2017, with value up 1.6% and volume up 1.4%. The *Beverage Digest* annual report measures most of the country's nonalcoholic ready-to-drink (NARTD) beverage category, but excludes some key areas such as chilled fruit juices delivered via warehouse distribution channels.

The report includes a category-by-category breakdown of retail value growth in 2017. Carbonated soft drinks (+1.3%); water (+3.8%); RTD teas (+1.5%); and RTD coffees/dairy-based and other (+11.7%) each reported healthy retail value growth. Only two categories – juice/juice drinks (-0.9%) and sports drinks (-1.8%) – posted value declines in channels measured by *Beverage Digest*.

"Value has become an important metric to consider when judging beverage industry health and performance during the current era of premiumization and market fragmentation," the report noted, emphasizing that this is "especially true" when looking at the growth of carbonated soft drinks. "While volume remains an important measure of long-term consumer demand, executives have focused increasingly on dollar sales growth as they raise prices (both rate and mix) amid volume sales declines."

In terms of volume growth, the report showed that Fanta and Sprite led Coke's soft drink portfolio with 5% and 4% volume growth, respectively, followed closely by Coke Zero Sugar at 3.8%. Each of these brands also grew in value.

Infographic: The Future of Non-Alcoholic Beverages

by Rob_Patterson • February 19, 2019

In the world of non-alcoholic beverages, Americans are always excited to try the latest, most exciting products – and brands have taken notice. Whether it was sparkling waters, coffees, teas, or anything in between, brands flooded the market with more than 4,000 new product launches in the year of 2018. Here, we take a look at trends from those beverage innovations and what they tell us about the future of the non-alcoholic beverage category.

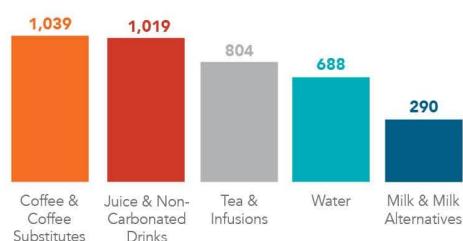


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HYDRATION INNOVATION

Of the \$56 billion in sales in the non-alcoholic beverage category, \$5.8 billion came from new products, accounting for 10% of the total category. Which beverage types saw the most innovation?

Number of new products:



WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH WATER?

Seventy-seven percent of surveyed Americans indicated that trying to drink more water is one of the primary ways they actively manage their health and lifestyle, and they're following through at the counter. Water sales are up 6% in the last year, well above the 2.4% growth of the non-alcoholic beverage category as a whole.



77% of Americans try to drink more water to manage their health and lifestyle.

Sales numbers from 2018 help us understand where consumer tastes are heading.

WHAT'S IN?	Sales Growth	WHAT'S OUT?	Sales Decline
Kombucha	+42.9%	Fruit & Vegetable Blended Beverages	-15.5%
Value Added Water	+17.5%	Coconut Water	-4.6%
Sparkling Water	+17.5%	Sparkling Juice	-3.6%
Ready-to-Drink Coffee	+10.5%	Smoothies	-3.5%

WHAT'S QUENCHING AMERICANS' THIRST?

While new product innovations span a variety of drink types, there are a few common characteristics among these beverages.



MILK ALTERNATIVE MOVEMENT

With many consumers leaving dairy out of their diets, milk alternatives have seen a big spike in the past year.



NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMPANY PORTFOLIO

Here are five facts you need to know about the state of the non-alcoholic beverage industry:

Hydration Innovation

Of the \$56 billion in sales in the non-alcoholic beverage category, \$5.8 billion came from new products, accounting for 10% of the total category. Which beverage types saw the most innovation?

- Coffee and Coffee Substitutes: 1,039 (new products)
- Juice and Non-Carbonated Drinks: 1,019
- Tea and Infusions: 804
- Water: 688
- Milk and Milk Alternatives: 290
-

What's In? What's Out?

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Smoothies	-3.5%

What's Quenching Americans' Thirst?

While new product innovations span a variety of drink types, there are a few common characteristics among these beverages.

- Carbonation: 71% (of innovation items)
- No Calories: 58%
- Packaged in a Can: 31%

What's the Deal With Water?

Seventy-seven percent of surveyed Americans indicated that trying to drink more water is one of the primary ways they actively manage their health and lifestyle, and they're following through at the counter. Water sales are up 6% in the last year, well above the 2.4% growth of the non-alcoholic beverage category as a whole.

Milk Alternative Movement

With many consumers leaving dairy out of their diets, milk alternatives have seen a big spike in the past year.

- Almond Milk +12%
- Oat Milk +69%

NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMPANY PORTFOLIO