

US Soft Drinks Packaging - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2025 - 2030)

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Report description:

The US Soft Drinks Packaging Market is expected to register a CAGR of 8.20% during the forecast period.

Key Highlights

- Driven by consumer desire for a healthier lifestyle, bottled water will overtake carbonated soft drinks as the leading packaged beverage of choice among U.S. consumers. With trends toward healthier beverages threatening the growth of carbonated soft drinks, finding new and innovative ways to get consumers to buy through packaging stimuli will be crucial for packaging manufacturers and brand owners. However, the cost will still be the key ingredient to any new packaging feasibility.
- Every segment of the bottled water industry is growing, and bottled water is considered the most successful mass-market beverage category in the U.S. Single-serve PET plastic bottled water outperformed all other beverage categories, posting another significant rise.
- Further, bottled water outsells retail soft drinks in 17 major cities, including New York, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Houston, Miami, and Washington D.C. Overall, soft drink consumption declines. More cities are projected will join the list.
- The majority of carbonated soft drinks are sold in aluminum cans and PET bottles. They are also sold in bulk in the foodservice industry through soda fountains. Only a tiny portion of CSDs are still packaged in glass bottles. These are usually packaged in smaller sizes due to changing consumer preferences and lifestyles and increased costs associated with transporting heavy, low-volume glass containers versus high volume-to-packaging ratio PET bottles and aluminum cans.
- Moreover, soft drinks are the second most-consumed drink after water, with plastic being the most used material for soft drinks packaging. Many beverage companies favor plastic packaging material for bottled beverages due to its lightweight, durability, and cost-efficiency.
- Further, carbonated soft drinks are usually packaged in aluminum cans. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the supply of these cans in the early months of the pandemic, which highlighted the limitations of these cans. The can shortage made carbonated

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beverage producers look for new packages, specifically all forms of aseptic, enabling a long ambient shelf life.

US Soft Drinks Packaging Market Trends

Plastic is Expected to Hold Significant Market Share

- Plastics are a more efficient material for soft drinks packaging than other alternatives because plastics are energy efficient to manufacture and lighter than alternative materials. For instance, just two pounds of plastic can deliver 10 gallons of Liquid, i.e., milk, whereas three pounds of aluminum, eight pounds of steel, or over 40 pounds of glass are needed to deliver the same amount of Liquid.
- Ready-to-drink iced tea has grown considerably due to the increasing demand. Market vendors are offering specialized recycle packaging for ready-to-drink tea. For instance, Graham Packaging offers recyclable plastic packaging to provide longer shelf life for single-serve packaging.
- Also, the busy life of working people has led to the launch of single-serve plastic sachets by various brands. Thus, this increases the importance of ready-to-consume drinks and further boosts market growth.
- HDPE is the most widely used type of plastic packaging material. It is used to make many types of bottles and containers. Unpigmented bottles are translucent and sturdy, have good barrier properties, and are well suited for packaging products with a shorter shelf life, such as Juices and Energy Drinks.
- With the expanding soft drinks market, it is evident that nutritional product demand, such as Juices, Energy drinks, sports drinks, is increasing, directly driving the soft drinks packaging market. It is also durable, and people can carry them without hassle. Moreover, plastics are airtight, so leakage and getting stale is unlikely.

Carbonated Beverages to hold the Largest Market Share

- The carbonated beverages market is one of the matured industries across the globe. The segment has undergone significant changes in product innovations and offerings in the last few years. To face the growing market challenges, companies are bringing new flavors keeping in mind consumers' health and wellness concerns.
- In the United States, carbonated drinks are the second most-consumed drink after water, with plastic being the most used material for soft drinks packaging. The increasing population and rising disposable income have led to the increasing demand for carbonated soft drinks products.
- The majority of carbonated soft drinks are sold in aluminum cans and PET bottles. They are also sold in bulk in the foodservice industry through soda fountains. Only a tiny portion of CSDs are still packaged in glass bottles. These are usually packaged in smaller sizes due to changing consumer preferences and lifestyles and increased costs associated with transporting heavy, low-volume glass containers versus high volume-to-packaging ratio PET bottles and aluminum cans.
- Moreover, Cola style soft drinks were the most popular carbonated beverage in the United States in 2020. The sales reached over 13 billion U.S. dollars. Citrus carbonated soft drink varieties ranked second, with sales amounting to around 4.6 billion U.S. dollars.
- Further, efficient packaging solutions offer ease of use, disposability, and enhanced user experience. These benefits have led to the demand for packaging solutions for the soft drinks segment. The other trend augmenting the demand is the new and innovative products, which helps manufacturers enhance their brand visibility while offering product differentiation.

US Soft Drinks Packaging Industry Overview

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The US Soft Drinks Packaging market is highly fragmented, owing to many domestic and international players. The market is fragmented, with the players competing in terms of price, product design, product innovation, etc. Some of the major players in the market are Amcor Ltd, Sealed Air Corporation, Tetra Pak International, Graham Packaging Company, Crown Holdings Incorporated, among others.

- July 2021 - Sealed Air Corporation has dedicated more than USD b30 million in capital to expand global production capacity and invest in new equipment systems to meet the accelerating demand for Automated Packaging Systems brand solutions. The investment is for capacity expansion, 'touchless' automation, and proprietary digital printing technologies, primarily in Streetsboro and Bedford Heights, Ohio, and Keyser, West Virginia, and will be completed in 2021.
- February 2021 - Tetra Pak introduced certified recycled polymers and became the first company in the food and beverage packaging industry to be awarded the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) Advanced Products certification. Its carton packages integrating attributed recycled polymers are now available for food and beverage manufacturers.

Additional Benefits:

- The market estimate (ME) sheet in Excel format
- 3 months of analyst support

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