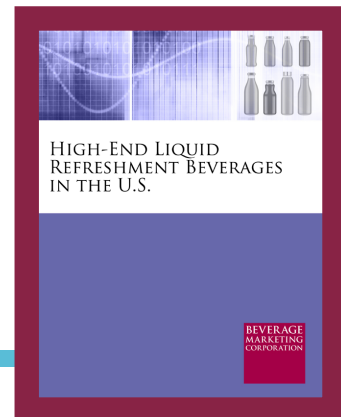


# HIGH-END LIQUID REFRESHMENT BEVERAGES IN THE U.S.

2022 EDITION (Published January 2023. Preliminary data through 2022. Market projections through 2026.) More than 25 pages, with analysis and charts, as well as more than 75 exhibits in Excel format.



*H*igh-End Liquid Refreshment Beverages in the U.S. from Beverage Marketing Corporation charts how premiumization trends have affected the various components of the liquid refreshment beverage (LRB) market. It considers the high-end segments of bottled water, energy drinks, carbonated soft drinks (CSDs) and more. It measure volume for each category and shows how high-end segments' shares have changed in recent years. Includes discussions of the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had and what impact inflation is currently having on the market.

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## INSIDE:

### REPORT OVERVIEW

A brief discussion of key features of this report. **2**

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

A detailed outline of this report's contents and data tables. **6**

### SAMPLE TEXT AND INFOGRAPHICS

A few examples of this report's text, data content layout and style. **11**



**HAVE QUESTIONS?**

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## THE ANSWERS YOU NEED

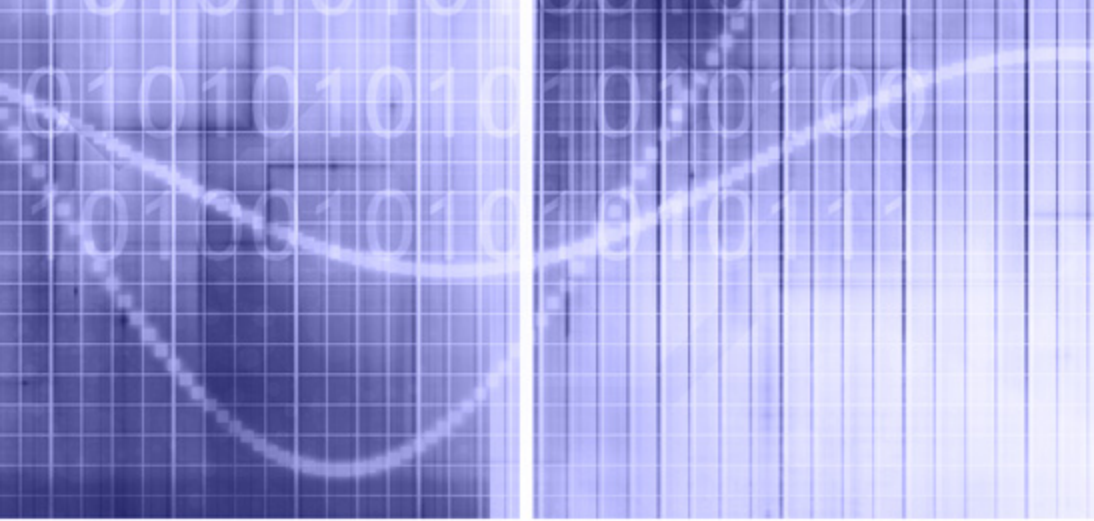
This report examines the trend toward premiumization, analyzing how various LRB categories have segmented to include not only the most familiar brands comprising each beverage type but also superpremium iterations of those brands or exclusively high-end brands. High-end segments of the following non-alcohol beverage categories are covered: bottled water and value added waters, fruit beverages, RTD coffee, RTD tea, CSDs, energy drinks and sports beverages. Questions answered include:

- How do high-end energy drinks differ from standard ones, and how has this affected the overall category's performance.
- Can upscale CSDs revitalize the long-languishing category?
- What are the trends driving high-end LRB developments?
- How has covid-19 impacted this segment and how has it likely impacted it for the long-term?

## THIS REPORT FEATURES

*High-End LRBs in the U.S.* looks at the upper-echelon components of still-growing categories such as energy drinks as well as slow growth and stagnating or declining categories seeking opportunities for rejuvenation and pockets of growth and revitalization in an otherwise lackluster performance picture. It chronicles a cross-category phenomenon of increasing segmentation as companies seek to meet consumer needs as well as capitalize on opportunities for improved profit margins through premiumization. It also discusses some of the vehicles for premiumization and differentiation – from ingredients to processing differences such as HPP, cold pressed and cold brew to marketing and packaging, etc. Using Beverage Marketing's exclusive data, the report provides insights into:

- The emergence of energy drinks promising functional benefits in addition to, or more targeting than, a jolt of caffeine.
- The ongoing cultivation of craft-style CSDs that aim to appeal to consumers in ways the biggest brands haven't been able to do.
- What distinguishes high-end waters from the single-serve PET bottles that account for the majority of volume?
- What are some of the key brands in high end fruit beverages, sports drinks, RTD Tea, cold brew coffee, bottled water and value added waters, RTD tea and energy drink markets? How are they performing and what makes them brands to watch?
- Brands covered include: Evian, Essentia, Voss, Fiji, Hint, Smartwater, Bang, Celsius, Reign, Nocco, C4, Celsius, Boylan, Stubborn, Reed's, Suja, Naked, Bolthouse, Honest Tea, Ito En, Teas' Tea and more.



# HIGH-END LIQUID REFRESHMENT BEVERAGES IN THE U.S.

**BEVERAGE  
MARKETING  
CORPORATION**

# High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverages in the U.S.

January 2023

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BEVERAGE  
MARKETING  
CORPORATION

RESEARCH • DATA • CONSULTING

**NOTE:** The information contained in this report is confidential and solely intended for the benefit of the immediate recipient hereof.

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# Contents

## Table of Contents

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS ----- i

Summary

**THE HIGH-END BEVERAGE MARKET**

The National Beverage Market----- 1

- Overview & Issues ----- 1

The High-End Beverage Market by Category ----- 6

- Bottled Water----- 6
- Carbonated Soft Drinks ----- 8
- Energy Drinks ----- 10
- Fruit Beverages ----- 12
- RTD Coffee ----- 15
- RTD Tea----- 17
- Sports Beverages ----- 19

The Projected High-End Beverage Market by Category ----- 22

Exhibit

**1. THE U.S. HIGH-END LIQUID REFRESHMENT BEVERAGE MARKET**

- 1.1 U.S. High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Volume by Category 2016 – 2022
- 1.2 U.S. High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Share of Volume by Category 2016 – 2022
- 1.3 U.S. High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Change in Volume by Category 2017 – 2022
- 1.4 U.S. High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Producers' Sales by Category 2016 – 2022
- 1.5 U.S. High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Share of Producers' Sales by Category 2016 – 2022
- 1.6 U.S. High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Change in Producers' Sales by Category 2017 – 2022
- 1.7 U.S. High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Per Capita Consumption by Category 2016 – 2022

**2. THE U.S. HIGH-END WATER MARKET**

- 2.8 U.S. High-End Water Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume and Share 2014 – 2022
- 2.9 U.S. High-End Water Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume Growth 2015 – 2022
- 2.10 U.S. High-End Water Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollars and Share 2014 – 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Exhibit

---

**2. THE U.S. HIGH-END WATER MARKET (cont'd)**

- 2.11 U.S. High-End Water Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollar Growth 2015 – 2022
- 2.12 U.S. High-End Water Market Estimated Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 2.13 U.S. High-End Water Market Share of Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 2.14 U.S. High-End Water Market Change in Volume by Brand 2017 – 2021
- 2.15 U.S. High-End Water Market Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 2.16 U.S. High-End Water Market Share of Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 2.17 U.S. High-End Water Market Change in Producers' Sales by Brand 2017 – 2021

**3. THE U.S. HIGH-END CARBONATED SOFT DRINK MARKET**

- 3.18 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume and Share 2014 – 2022
- 3.19 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume Growth 2015 – 2022
- 3.20 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollars and Share 2014 – 2022
- 3.21 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollar Growth 2015 – 2022
- 3.22 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market Estimated Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 3.23 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market Share of Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 3.24 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market Change in Volume by Brand 2017 – 2021
- 3.25 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 3.26 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market Share of Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 3.27 U.S. High-End Carbonated Soft Drink Market Change in Producers' Sales by Brand 2017 – 2021

**4. THE U.S. HIGH-END ENERGY DRINK MARKET**

- 4.28 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume and Share 2014 – 2022
- 4.29 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume Growth 2015 – 2022
- 4.30 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollars and Share 2014 – 2022
- 4.31 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollar Growth 2015 – 2022
- 4.32 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market Estimated Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 4.33 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market Share of Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021

---

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Exhibit

---

- 4. THE U.S. HIGH-END ENERGY DRINK MARKET (cont'd)**
  - 4.34 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market Change in Volume by Brand 2017 – 2021
  - 4.35 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 4.36 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market Share of Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 4.37 U.S. High-End Energy Drink Market Change in Producers' Sales by Brand 2017 – 2021
  
- 5. THE U.S. HIGH-END FRUIT BEVERAGE MARKET**
  - 5.38 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume and Share 2014 – 2022
  - 5.39 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume Growth 2015 – 2022
  - 5.40 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollars and Share 2014 – 2022
  - 5.41 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollar Growth 2015 – 2022
  - 5.42 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market Estimated Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 5.43 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market Share of Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 5.44 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market Change in Volume by Brand 2017 – 2021
  - 5.45 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 5.46 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market Share of Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 5.47 U.S. High-End Fruit Beverage Market Change in Producers' Sales by Brand 2017 – 2021
  
- 6. THE U.S. HIGH-END READY-TO-DRINK COFFEE MARKET**
  - 6.48 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume and Share 2014 – 2022
  - 6.49 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume Growth 2015 – 2022
  - 6.50 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollars and Share 2014 – 2022
  - 6.51 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollar Growth 2015 – 2022
  - 6.52 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market Estimated Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 6.53 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market Share of Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 6.54 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market Change in Volume by Brand 2017 – 2021
  - 6.55 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 6.56 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market Share of Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
  - 6.57 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Coffee Market Change in Producers' Sales by Brand 2017 – 2021



---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Exhibit

---

#### **7. THE U.S. HIGH-END READY-TO-DRINK TEA MARKET**

- 7.58 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume and Share 2014 – 2022
- 7.59 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume Growth 2015 – 2022
- 7.60 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollars and Share 2014 – 2022
- 7.61 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollar Growth 2015 – 2022
- 7.62 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market Estimated Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 7.63 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market Share of Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 7.64 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market Change in Volume by Brand 2017 – 2021
- 7.65 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 7.66 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market Share of Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 7.67 U.S. High-End Ready-to-Drink Tea Market Change in Producers' Sales by Brand 2017 – 2021

#### **8. THE U.S. HIGH-END SPORTS DRINK MARKET**

- 8.68 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume and Share 2014 – 2022
- 8.69 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Volume Growth 2015 – 2022
- 8.70 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollars and Share 2014 – 2022
- 8.71 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market High-End vs. Mainstream Wholesale Dollar Growth 2015 – 2022
- 8.72 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market Estimated Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 8.73 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market Share of Volume by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 8.74 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market Change in Volume by Brand 2017 – 2021
- 8.75 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 8.76 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market Share of Producers' Sales by Brand 2016 – 2021
- 8.77 U.S. High-End Sports Drink Market Change in Producers' Sales by Brand 2017 – 2021

#### **9. THE PROJECTED HIGH-END LIQUID REFRESHMENT BEVERAGE MARKET**

- 9.78 Projected High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Volume by Category 2016 – 2026
- 9.79 Projected High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Share of Volume by Category 2016 – 2026

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Exhibit

---

- 9. THE PROJECTED HIGH-END LIQUID REFRESHMENT BEVERAGE MARKET (cont'd)**
- 9.80 Projected High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Change in Volume by Category 2021 – 2026
- 9.81 Projected High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Producers' Sales by Category 2016 – 2026
- 9.82 Projected High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Share of Producers' Sales by Category 2016 – 2026
- 9.83 Projected High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Change in Producers' Sales by Category 2021 – 2026
- 9.84 Projected High-End Liquid Refreshment Beverage Market Per Capita Consumption by Category 2016 – 2026

The high-end LRB segments generally perform similarly in terms of producer prices as they do with volume. That is to say, the share movement of individual categories evince the same general pattern. Nonetheless, categories do have different relative strengths in terms of producers' sales and volume because of their differing price points. In addition, the rapid growth in inflation starting in late 2021 and continuing into 2022 has resulted in very strong dollar growth, to the detriment of volume.

- While bottled water constitutes a lower share of the high-end LRB market by producers' sales versus volume, it leads the pack by either measure. Bottled water's share of high-end LRB producers' sales grew by one percentage point to 32.0% in 2022, based on preliminary data. In 2022, high-end bottled water revenues are estimated to have grown by 13.6% on an only 3.0% increase in volume.
- In contrast, fruit beverages have a higher share of producers' sales than volume but have lost share either way. High-end fruit beverages have lost 12.5 share points between 2017 and 2022.
- Energy drinks have picked up most of the slack, increasing share of high-end LRB producers' sales by 12.3 percentage points in the past five years. As a result, high-end energy drinks have inched much closer to high-end CSDs in sales.
- Sports beverages have nearly doubled their share of high-end LRB sales in the past three years, while RTD tea has seen share decimation in the same time frame. RTD coffee has grown in share.

The main factors underlying the better performance of high-end LRBs versus mainstream LRBs are severalfold.

- The main factor is that high-end LRBs are perceived as healthier or of better quality than mainstream LRBs. Examples include HPP juices, whose production process is said to better preserve enzymes and nutrients; energy drinks that offer additional ingredients that are purported to improve athletic or cognitive performance; and sports drinks that have fewer artificial ingredients and colors.
- As with all things high-end, some high-end LRB consumers may also be seeking badge value, such as being seen toting an imported bottled water. Consumers able to pay a higher price for these beverages have been in ample supply during the purported economic recovery of the past 13 years. The coronavirus and the response to it may have delayed an inevitable downturn in the economy and thus fewer people may be able to pay a high price point for beverages based solely on image in the near-to-midterm future.
- What cannot be overlooked is that the mainstream LRB market has a much higher base than high-end LRBs, making comparably strong growth much harder to achieve. Indeed, one of the motivations for introducing high-end LRBs in the first place is to escape the slow growth paradigm of mainstream LRBs.

**U.S. HIGH-END ENERGY DRINK MARKET  
HIGH-END VS. MAINSTREAM WHOLESALE DOLLAR GROWTH  
2015 – 2022(p)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>High-End</b>	<b>Mainstream</b>	<b>Total</b>
2014/15	100%	100%	100%
2015/16	100%	100%	100%
2016/17	100%	100%	100%
2017/18	100%	100%	100%
2018/19	100%	100%	100%
2019/20	100%	100%	100%
2020/21	100%	100%	100%
2021/22(p)	100%	100%	100%

(p) Preliminary

Source: Beverage Marketing Corporation