

Carbonates in Romania

December 2025

Table of Contents

KEY DATA FINDINGS

2025 DEVELOPMENTS

Carbonates struggle as price inflation, sugar taxation and health-driven substitution reshape demand

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Health perceptions, sugar taxation and value concerns accelerate the decline of traditional carbonates

Tonic water and mixers gain momentum as cocktail culture and premium drinking rituals expand

WHAT'S NEXT?

Carbonates set to continue declining as consumers pivot towards healthier and more natural soft drinks

Sustainability, packaging innovation and manufacturing modernisation reshape future market dynamics

Health concerns prompt functional repositioning and experimentation with reduced sugar and prebiotic formulations

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Coca-Cola HBC Romania reinforces leadership through innovation, localisation and experiential branding

Merlins Beverages accelerates growth as Pop Cola positions itself as a local, natural and ethical alternative

CHANNELS

Small local grocers and modern grocery retailers maintain strong carbonates presence through accessibility and assortment breadth

E-commerce gains momentum as consumers seek convenience, wide assortments and competitive pricing

CATEGORY DATA

Table 1 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Carbonates: Volume 2020-2025

Table 2 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Carbonates: Value 2020-2025

Table 3 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Carbonates: % Volume Growth 2020-2025

Table 4 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Carbonates: % Value Growth 2020-2025

Table 5 - Off-trade Sales of Carbonates by Category: Volume 2020-2025

Table 6 - Off-trade Sales of Carbonates by Category: Value 2020-2025

Table 7 - Off-trade Sales of Carbonates by Category: % Volume Growth 2020-2025

Table 8 - Off-trade Sales of Carbonates by Category: % Value Growth 2020-2025

Table 9 - Total Sales of Carbonates by Fountain On-trade: Volume 2020-2025

Table 10 - Total Sales of Carbonates by Fountain On-trade: % Volume Growth 2020-2025

Table 11 - NBO Company Shares of Off-trade Carbonates: % Volume 2021-2025

Table 12 - LBN Brand Shares of Off-trade Carbonates: % Volume 2022-2025

Table 13 - NBO Company Shares of Off-trade Carbonates: % Value 2021-2025

Table 14 - LBN Brand Shares of Off-trade Carbonates: % Value 2022-2025

Table 15 - Forecast Off-trade Sales of Carbonates by Category: Volume 2025-2030

Table 16 - Forecast Off-trade Sales of Carbonates by Category: Value 2025-2030

Table 17 - Forecast Off-trade Sales of Carbonates by Category: % Volume Growth 2025-2030

Table 18 - Forecast Off-trade Sales of Carbonates by Category: % Value Growth 2025-2030

Table 19 - Forecast Total Sales of Carbonates by Fountain On-trade: Volume 2025-2030

Table 20 - Forecast Total Sales of Carbonates by Fountain On-trade: % Volume Growth 2025-2030

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Soft Drinks in Romania - Industry Overview

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Soft drinks performance shaped by affordability pressures and shifting lifestyle preferences

KEY DATA FINDINGS

INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE

Health-aligned beverages outperform as consumers reassess value and functionality

Deposit-Return System reshapes packaging dynamics and encourages operational efficiencies

WHAT'S NEXT?

Soft drinks demand set to rise gradually despite economic constraints

E-commerce acceleration driven by convenience, automation and omnichannel expansion

Technological investment to strengthen domestic production and supply chain resilience

COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

Coca-Cola HBC Romania maintains leadership through scale, visibility and operational investment

Emerging beverage brands gain momentum as they diversify portfolios and leverage lifestyle trends

CHANNELS

Hypermarkets consolidate leadership through scale, assortment and value-led strategies

E-commerce emerges as the fastest-growing channel as omnichannel players scale logistics

FOODSERVICE VS RETAIL SPLIT

MARKET DATA

Table 21 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (RTD) by Channel: Volume 2020-2025

Table 22 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (RTD) by Channel: % Volume Growth 2020-2025

Table 23 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Channel: Value 2020-2025

Table 24 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Channel: % Value Growth 2020-2025

Table 25 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (as sold) by Category: Volume 2025

Table 26 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (as sold) by Category: % Volume 2025

Table 27 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Category: Value 2025

Table 28 - Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Category: % Value 2025

Table 29 - Off-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (RTD) by Category: Volume 2020-2025

Table 30 - Off-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (RTD) by Category: % Volume Growth 2020-2025

Table 31 - Off-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Category: Value 2020-2025

Table 32 - Off-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Category: % Value Growth 2020-2025

Table 33 - Sales of Soft Drinks by Total Fountain On-trade: Volume 2020-2025

Table 34 - Sales of Soft Drinks by Total Fountain On-trade: % Volume Growth 2020-2025

Table 35 - NBO Company Shares of Total Soft Drinks (RTD): % Volume 2021-2025

Table 36 - LBN Brand Shares of Total Soft Drinks (RTD): % Volume 2022-2025

Table 37 - NBO Company Shares of On-trade Soft Drinks (RTD): % Volume 2021-2025

Table 38 - LBN Brand Shares of On-trade Soft Drinks (RTD): % Volume 2022-2025

Table 39 - NBO Company Shares of Off-trade Soft Drinks (RTD): % Volume 2021-2025

Table 40 - LBN Brand Shares of Off-trade Soft Drinks (RTD): % Volume 2022-2025

Table 41 - NBO Company Shares of Off-trade Soft Drinks: % Value 2021-2025

Table 42 - LBN Brand Shares of Off-trade Soft Drinks: % Value 2022-2025

Table 43 - Penetration of Private Label in Off-trade Soft Drinks (RTD) by Category: % Volume 2020-2025

Table 44 - Penetration of Private Label in Off-trade Soft Drinks by Category: % Value 2020-2025

Table 45 - Distribution of Off-trade Soft Drinks (as sold) by Format: % Volume 2020-2025

Table 46 - Distribution of Off-trade Soft Drinks (as sold) by Format and Category: % Volume 2025

Table 47 - Forecast Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (RTD) by Channel: Volume 2025-2030

Table 48 - Forecast Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (RTD) by Channel: % Volume Growth 2025-2030

Table 49 - Forecast Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Channel: Value 2025-2030

Table 50 - Forecast Off-trade vs On-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Channel: % Value Growth 2025-2030

Table 51 - Forecast Off-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (RTD) by Category: Volume 2025-2030

Table 52 - Forecast Off-trade Sales of Soft Drinks (RTD) by Category: % Volume Growth 2025-2030

Table 53 - Forecast Off-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Category: Value 2025-2030

Table 54 - Forecast Off-trade Sales of Soft Drinks by Category: % Value Growth 2025-2030

Table 55 - Forecast Sales of Soft Drinks by Total Fountain On-trade: Volume 2025-2030

Table 56 - Forecast Sales of Soft Drinks by Total Fountain On-trade: % Volume Growth 2025-2030

APPENDIX

Fountain sales in Romania

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SOURCES

Summary 1 - Research Sources

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