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"The sugar tax is likely to have a severe impact on CSD sales in 2018, and as such is the single biggest challenge facing the industry. However, drinkers' inclinations to switch to low-sugar versions and the strength of consumer demand for action on the sugar issue suggest that companies seen as proactive on this matter stand in good stead of shoring up their reputation among consumers."

— Alice Baker, Research Analyst

# This report looks at the following areas:

- Consumer call for sugar reduction presents companies with a challenge and an opportunity
- · Sparkling fruit juice with added vitamins could help to retain users
- New and seasonal flavours could maintain interest in the category

The sugar tax, due to be introduced in 2018, is likely to have a severe effect on sales. However, the low-sugar variants should benefit from consumers switching to them.

74% of CSD drinkers say that manufacturers should do more to reduce the sugar in their products, placing the onus upon companies to be seen as proactive in this area. The potential risk of reformulation is indicated in that 35% of CSD drinkers say that a change of recipe would make them less loyal to their favourite brand. However, the high demand for action on the sugar issue suggests such a strategy should appeal to more people than it alienates.

Meanwhile consumer interest in flavour innovation, fortified CSDs and seasonal flavours suggest other means to maintain interest and engagement within the category.

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This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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#### **Table of Contents**

#### Overview

What you need to know

Products covered in this Report

#### **Executive Summary**

The market

On-premise grows faster than retail 2015

Sugar tax poses a threat going forward

Figure 1: Forecast of UK sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value, 2011-21

Cola continues to dominate market but mixers see strongest growth

Sugar tax is key challenge for industry to negotiate

Companies and brands

CCE loses sales and share while PepsiCo gains from Pepsi Max growth

Figure 2: Leading brands' shares in the UK retail carbonated soft drinks market, by value, 2015/16\*

Coca-Cola reformulates and L/N/R sugar claims increase

Advertising spend approaches 2013 high

Coca-Cola most likely to be seen as worth paying more for but Shloer is the most likely to be recommended

The consumer

Usage of non-diet CSDs remains higher, but diet CSDs more likely to be drunk daily

Figure 3: Usage of non-diet and diet carbonated soft drinks, April 2016

Figure 4: Usage of non-diet and diet carbonated soft drinks, by location, April 2016

Further promotion needed to build special-occasion associations

Opportunities for both established and new players to innovate, while fortified CSDs could help to retain users

Figure 5: Carbonated soft drink product enticements, April 2016

Consumer demand for action on sugar places onus on companies but potential pitfalls ahead

Figure 6: Attitudes towards carbonated soft drinks, April 2016

A price rise would prompt more than half of sugary CSD drinkers to cut back or stop, but switching creates opportunities to maintain sales

Figure 7: Consumers' expected response to the sugar tax, April 2016

Figure 8: How those cutting back due to the sugar tax expect to change their behaviour, April 2016

What we think

## Issues and Insights

Consumer call for sugar reduction presents companies with a challenge and an opportunity

The facts

The implications

Sparkling fruit juice with added vitamins could help to retain users

The facts

The implications



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New and seasonal flavours could maintain interest in the category

The facts

The implications

The Market - What You Need to Know

On-premise grows faster than retail in 2015

Further decline estimated in 2016

Sugar tax poses a threat going forward

Cola continues to dominate market but mixers see strongest growth

Sugar tax is key challenge for industry to negotiate

Market Size and Forecast

On-premise grows ahead of retail in 2015

Figure 9: Forecast of UK sales of carbonated soft drinks, by volume, 2011-21

Figure 10: Forecast of UK sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value, 2011-21

Figure 11: Forecast of UK sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value and volume, 2011-21

Sugar tax to hit sales

Figure 12: Forecast of UK retail sales of carbonated soft drinks, by volume, 2011-21

Figure 13: Forecast of UK retail sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value, 2011-21

Figure 14: Forecast of UK retail sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value, 2011-21

Improved disposable incomes should boost on-premise sales

Figure 15: Forecast of UK on-premise sales of carbonated soft drinks, by volume, 2011-21

Figure 16: Forecast of UK on-premise sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value, 2011-21

Figure 17: Forecast of UK sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value and volume, 2011-21

Forecast methodology

Market Segmentation

Growth for low-sugar options buoys up cola sales

Figure 18: Retail value and volume sales of carbonated soft drinks and adult and traditional soft drinks, by segment, 2013-15

Lack of focus on low-sugar options inhibits lemonade

Spirits' rising popularity boosts mixers

Market Drivers

Sugar tax is key challenge for the carbonated soft drinks industry

Local government urges parents to switch away from CSDs

Ageing population could inhibit category growth

Improved incomes should facilitate trading up

Summer weather plays a crucial role

Figure 19: Sunshine hours in the UK, by month, 2011-16

Key Players - What You Need to Know

CCE loses sales and share while PepsiCo gains from Pepsi Max growth

Coca-Cola reformulates and L/N/R sugar claims increase

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Advertising spend approaches 2013 high

Coca-Cola most likely to be seen as worth paying more for but Shloer is the most likely to be recommended

#### Market Share

Mixed fortunes for Coca-Cola brands

Coca-Cola and Diet Coke falter but Coca-Cola Life continues to grow

Schweppes fails to benefit from growth in mixers

Pepsi Max benefits from sole marketing focus

Increased distribution helps San Pellegrino to grow

Figure 20: Leading brands' sales and shares in the UK retail carbonated soft drinks and adult and traditional soft drinks market, by value and volume, 2014/15 and 2015/16

Fever-Tree reaps benefits of growth in mixers as distribution increases

Figure 21: Leading manufacturers' sales and shares in the UK retail carbonated soft drinks and adult and traditional soft drinks market, by value and volume, 2014/15 and 2015/16

### Launch Activity and Innovation

Coca-Cola reformulates and relaunches

New flavoured waters blur boundaries with CSDs

Sparkling Ice enters the UK market

AG Barr extends into flavoured water

Companies continue to focus on calories, not sugar in promoting diet drinks

Figure 22: New product launches in the UK carbonated soft drinks market, by top 20 claims, 2011-15

Premium claims are on the up

Further growth in pressés

Taking inspiration from alcoholic drinks

### Advertising and Marketing Activity

### Adspend approaches 2013 peak

Figure 23: Above-the-line, online display and direct mail advertising in the UK carbonated soft drinks market, by top 10 advertisers (sorted by 2015), 2012-15

Coca-Cola evokes emotions in unified campaign

Diet Coke receives largest proportion of Coca-Cola's spend

Forging links with sports and active lifestyles

PepsiCo focuses on Pepsi Max range

Suntory targets discerning adults with Orangina relaunch

AG Barr draws on its Scottish heritage

Fever-Tree unveils first ever television advert

Nielsen Media Research coverage

### **Brand Research**

### What you need to know

### Brand map

Figure 24: Attitudes towards and usage of selected drinks brands, March 2016

### Key brand metrics

Figure 25: Key metrics for selected drinks brands, March 2016



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### Brand attitudes: Coca-Cola and Shloer seen as most worth paying more for

Figure 26: Attitudes, by drinks brand, March 2016

### Brand personality: Coca-Cola is seen as the most fun

Figure 27: Brand personality - Macro image, March 2016

### Shloer seen as sophisticated and stylish

Figure 28: Brand personality – Micro image, March 2016

#### Brand analysis

### Shloer is the most recommended brand

Figure 29: User profile of Shloer, March 2016

### Coca-Cola seen most widely as worth paying more for

Figure 30: User profile of Coca-Cola, March 2016

### Pepsi Max seen as fun and vibrant but less associated with health than Diet Coke

Figure 31: User profile of Pepsi Max, March 2016

### Diet Coke remains more popular with women than men

Figure 32: User profile of Diet Coke, March 2016

#### 7UP seen as refreshing but also as standing still

Figure 33: User profile of 7UP, March 2016

### Orangina is seen as the most pure but has lost out from lower visibility

Figure 34: User profile of Orangina, March 2016

### Coca-Cola Life favoured by parents with young children

Figure 35: User profile of Coca-Cola Life, March 2016

### Irn-Bru remains more popular in Scotland than elsewhere in the UK

Figure 36: User profile of Irn-Bru, March 2016

### The Consumer – What You Need to Know

Usage of non-diet CSDs remains higher, but diet CSDs more likely to be drunk daily

Further promotion needed to build special-occasion associations

Opportunities for both established and new players to innovate, while fortified CSDs could help to retain users

Consumer demand for action on sugar places onus on companies but potential pitfalls ahead

A price rise would prompt more than half of sugary CSD drinkers to cut back or stop, but switching creates opportunities to maintain sales

### Usage of Carbonated Soft Drinks

### Carbonated soft drinks usage undiminished by sugar concerns

Figure 37: Usage of non-diet and diet carbonated soft drinks, April 2016

## Youth bias in usage limits market growth potential

Rising incomes could encourage trading up

### Diet CSDs more likely to be drunk daily

Figure 38: Usage frequency for non-diet and diet carbonated soft drinks, April 2016

### Range of potential uses boosts at-home drinking

### Scope for pubs and restaurants to expand their selection of diet CSDs

Figure 39: Usage of non-diet and diet carbonated soft drinks, by location, April 2016

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### Usage Occasions for Selected Types of Carbonated Soft Drinks

Majority do not see carbonated soft drinks as suitable for formal occasions

Role of CSDs in enhancing an everyday meal could be promoted further

Pressés still unfamiliar to many consumers

Smaller formats could encourage on-the-go usage

Treat aspect of pressés and sparkling juice can be mined further

Figure 40: Usage occasions for selected types of carbonated soft drinks and other sparkling drinks, April 2016

Few acknowledge flavoured sparkling water as offering hydration

### **Product Enticements**

Opportunity for established and new players to innovate with flavours

Introductory offers and sample size packs could help to drive trial

Figure 41: Carbonated soft drink product enticements, April 2016

Carbonated soft drinks with added benefits interest a third of users

Expansion of seasonal flavours could encourage all-year-round usage

#### Attitudes towards Carbonated Soft Drinks

Consumer demand for action on sugar places onus on companies but multiple issues to negotiate

Figure 42: Attitudes towards carbonated soft drinks, April 2016

Brands and retailers take different approaches to reducing sugar

Plant-derived sweeteners not the 'magic bullet' solution

Potential for other sugar alternatives

Meal deals and strategic positioning could harness associations of glass bottles with special occasions

Stronger emphasis on fruit content could help fruit juice-based CSDs to differentiate themselves

More than half of drinkers are interested in CSDs with a charity donation

Consumers' Expected Response to the Sugar Tax

More than half of users of sugary CSDs would stop or cut back

Figure 43: Consumers' expected response to the sugar tax, April 2016

Reports of unchanged behaviour more common among infrequent users

Higher earners more likely to cut back

Consumer switching provides opportunities for brands to diversify

Figure 44: How those cutting back due to the sugar tax expect to change their behaviour, April 2016

Opportunities for both premium and own-label

Appendix – Data Sources, Abbreviations and Supporting Information

Abbreviations

Consumer research methodology

Appendix - Market Size and Forecast

Total market

Figure 45: Forecast of UK sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value, best- and worst-case, 2011-21

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Figure 46: Forecast of UK sales of carbonated soft drinks, by volume, best- and worst-case, 2011-21

#### Retail

- Figure 47: Forecast of UK retail sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value, best- and worst-case, 2011-21
- Figure 48: Forecast of UK retail sales of carbonated soft drinks, by volume, best- and worst-case, 2011-21

#### On-premise

- Figure 49: Forecast of UK on-premise sales of carbonated soft drinks, by value, best- and worst-case, 2011-21
- Figure 50: Forecast of UK on-premise sales of carbonated soft drinks, by volume, best- and worst-case, 2011-21

### Forecast methodology

Appendix – Advertising and Marketing Activity

Figure 51: Above-the-line, online display and direct mail advertising in the UK carbonated soft drinks market, by parent company and brand (sorted by top five advertisers in 2015), 2012-15