

# Bottled Water - UK - 2022

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### This report looks at the following areas:

- The impact of COVID-19 on the bottled water market.
- The outlook for the market in the re-emergence from the pandemic and recovery up to 2026.
- The latest new product development (NPD) trends.
- Consumers' usage and reasons for drinking bottled water.
- Consumer behaviours and attitudes towards bottled water.

Despite the overriding importance of flavour and enjoyability to any drinks choice, and the intrinsic link between people's senses of taste and smell, aroma is almost entirely overlooked in how soft drinks sell their drinking experience to consumers. Illustrating the scale of this missed opportunity, two fifths of flavoured water drinkers (39%) agree that having a stronger aroma would make flavoured water more appealing.

The category's strong value image helped to insulate the market from the last income squeeze. However, the squeeze on real incomes in 2022-23 is set to be much more severe, making the money-saving benefits of carrying refillable water bottles when out and about more persuasive. Pressure on real incomes will also slow the rebound of the embattled on-trade channel and hence dampen value growth in the market.

The rise of eco-consciousness and heightened concerns around single-use plastics, microplastics and carbon footprints will add more weight to the strong sustainability argument for ditching bottled water. Tap water usage will also be supported by the permanent shift towards at-home working and the rise in ownership of at-home soda-makers.

Energising associations are important in driving usage of bottled water, cited by a quarter of drinkers aged under 45. The addition of ingredients with links to energy provision would allow products to capitalise on this need state more



"The income squeeze and the accelerated sustainability movement will further ingrain the use of refillable bottles and severely test the resilience of the bottled water market. Added value innovation that taps into the leading usage drivers is set to be pivotal in its ability to ride out these headwinds."

Emma Clifford, Associate
 Director – Food and Drink
 Research, May 2022

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effectively. This can create a softer and more accessible alternative to energy drinks, with a healthier and more natural positioning.

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