

The protein beverage market is growing rapidly, fueled by demand for functional, nutrient-rich options that go beyond hydration. Between 2020 and 2024, **high-protein drink launches rose by 122%** as consumers increasingly seek benefits like recovery, energy, digestion, and overall wellness.

Younger consumers (ages 18–34) are leading this shift, **prioritizing** clean labels, convenience, and functional benefits.

- 43% cite protein content as their top purchase driver.
- 23% of men and 17% of women in this group consume functional beverages multiple times a day.
- Preferred attributes include low sugar, no artificial ingredients, and 11–20g of dairybased protein per serving.







# Functional Beverages: Market Growth & Appeal

### 'Sober Curious' Movement: A Cultural Shift

Consumers are increasingly turning to functional beverages—for stress relief, mental clarity, and overall wellness.

- The global functional beverage market is projected to grow from \$1.5B in 2025 to \$2.5B by 2034, at a CAGR of 6.5%
- 57% of consumers check nutrition labels specifically for protein content, showing its importance in purchase decisions
- Growth is driven by the rise of natural, clean beverage solutions and the rise of readyto-drink (RTD) formats that fit into busy lifestyles

The 'sober curious' movement is reshaping beverage preferences, especially among younger consumers who are prioritizing wellness and moderation.

- 49% of Americans say they plan to drink less alcohol in 2025—a
   44% increase since 2023
- 65% of Gen Z plan to reduce alcohol consumption, and 39% intend to adopt a fully dry lifestyle in 2025
- Interest in non-alcoholic and functional alternatives is rising, with 58% of Americans planning to try a non-alcoholic drink this year

#### Beverage Ingredient Solutions Built for What's Next

In a fast-moving beverage landscape, versatility matters. Our specialty proteins are designed to perform across formats, delivering the nutrition, functionality, and clean-label appeal that today's consumers demand.



#### CLEAR PRO 90™ (Whey Protein Isolate)

- Clean, refreshing, nondairy taste
- Excellent heat stability and high clarity at low pH
- High-quality whey protein for fast muscle recovery
- Ideal for clear, acidic, and fruit-based applications



## MCI (Micellar Casein Isolate)

- Clean, neutral milky flavor
- Excellent heat stability with minimal gelling or sedimentation during heat processing
- Slow digesting protein that promotes satiety and supports muscle recovery
- Ideal for high-protein UHT or retort applications





### **Your Partner in Beverage Innovation**

Whether you're formulating for recovery, energy, digestion, or daily wellness, our ingredients offer:

- ✓ Consistent performance in RTD and powder formats
- ✓ Clean-label compatibility with no artificial additives
- ✓ Flexible protein levels to meet a range of nutritional targets
- ✓ Superior sensory experience across applications

### **Protein with Purpose**

Our specialty ingredients empower brands to create products that resonate with this growing consumer base—delivering performance, wellness, and simplicity in every sip.

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