

Global In-flight Catering Services Market to Reach USD 18.52 Billion by 2032

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Abstracts

The Global In-flight Catering Services Market was valued at approximately USD 15.5 billion in 2023 and is projected to expand at a CAGR of 9.30% over the forecast period from 2024 to 2032. With air travel rebounding strongly post-pandemic, airlines are increasingly focusing on enhancing passenger experiences, making in-flight catering a critical component of their service strategy. The evolution of consumer expectations, driven by preferences for healthier meals, customization, and gourmet food options, is shaping the dynamics of the global in-flight catering industry. Airlines are actively partnering with leading catering providers to integrate high-quality, regionally inspired, and sustainable meal options, elevating their onboard hospitality services.

The increasing number of long-haul and ultra-long-haul flights, coupled with a rising demand for premium class travel, is fostering growth within the industry. Additionally, the emergence of personalized catering solutions, including meal pre-selection, special dietary offerings, and collaborations with top chefs, is transforming airline food services. Technological innovations, such as AI-powered inventory management systems and real-time meal tracking, are also revolutionizing catering logistics, reducing food wastage, and optimizing supply chain efficiencies. Furthermore, the increasing adoption of sustainable practices—such as biodegradable packaging, locally sourced ingredients, and plant-based meal options—reflects a broader trend toward environmentally conscious air travel.

Despite its promising trajectory, the market faces challenges, including stringent airline budgets, fluctuating raw material prices, and logistical complexities associated with onboard meal preparation and distribution. Additionally, airlines operating low-cost models are under increasing pressure to balance affordability with quality, often limiting their catering services to pre-packaged meal options. Nevertheless, the rising

preference for in-flight gourmet dining, coupled with innovations in meal preservation and delivery, is expected to mitigate these challenges and sustain market growth. The integration of contactless ordering systems and digital meal customization platforms is further enhancing passenger convenience and boosting airline revenues from ancillary services.

Regionally, North America dominates the in-flight catering services market, supported by a well-established aviation industry, high air travel frequency, and premium passenger demand for exclusive onboard dining experiences. Europe follows closely, with major airline carriers investing heavily in luxurious catering offerings to attract business-class travelers. Meanwhile, Asia-Pacific is projected to witness the fastest growth, driven by the increasing number of international flights, expanding middle-class air travel, and strategic airline alliances with regional catering providers. Markets in Latin America and the Middle East & Africa are also evolving steadily as airlines in these regions modernize their onboard services and focus on enhancing in-flight meal quality.

Major Market Players Included in This Report:

Gate Gourmet

DO & CO Aktiengesellschaft

LSG Sky Chefs

Servair

Emirates Flight Catering

SATS Ltd.

Flying Food Group

Newrest Group International S.A.S

ANA Catering Service Co., Ltd.

Journey Group plc

Japan Airlines Co., Ltd.

Saudi Airlines Catering Company

dnata

Air Culinaire Worldwide

IGS Catering Services

The Detailed Segments and Sub-Segments of the Market Are Explained Below:

By Aircraft Class:

First Class

Business Class

Premium Economy Class

Economy Class

By Flight Type:

Full Service

Low Cost

By Catering Type:

Bakery & Confectionary

Meals

Beverages

Others

By Region:

North America:

U.S.

Canada

Europe:

UK

Germany

France

Spain

Italy

Rest of Europe

Asia-Pacific:

China

India

Japan

Australia

South Korea

Rest of Asia-Pacific

Latin America:

Brazil

Mexico

Rest of Latin America

Middle East & Africa:

Saudi Arabia

South Africa

Rest of Middle East & Africa

Years Considered for the Study:

Historical Year – 2022

Base Year – 2023

Forecast Period – 2024 to 2032

Key Takeaways:

Market estimates and forecasts for 10 years from 2022 to 2032.

Annualized revenues and regional-level analysis for each market segment.

Detailed analysis of the geographical landscape with country-level assessments.

Competitive landscape with information on major players in the market.

Analysis of key business strategies and recommendations on future market approaches.

Evaluation of the competitive structure of the market.

Demand-side and supply-side analysis of the market.

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