

Biodegradable & Compostable Food Packaging Market Forecasts to 2034 - Global Analysis By Packaging Format (Flexible Packaging, Rigid Packaging, Bags & Sacks and Boxes & Cartons), Material Type, Distribution Channel, Application, End User and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Biodegradable & Compostable Food Packaging Market is accounted for \$112.4 billion in 2026 and is expected to reach \$215.9 billion by 2034 growing at a CAGR of 8.5% during the forecast period. Biodegradable and compostable food packaging is emerging as an environmentally responsible substitute for traditional plastic packaging, relying on materials capable of decomposing under appropriate conditions. Solutions include paper, molded fiber, starch-based materials, polylactic acid, and various renewable polymers. Their adoption can reduce reliance on petroleum-derived plastics, limit long-lasting packaging waste, and promote circular resource use. Rising environmental awareness among consumers, government restrictions targeting single-use plastics, and improvements in packaging materials are accelerating adoption among food producers, processors, retailers, and foodservice businesses seeking more sustainable packaging solutions.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), agricultural value chains used 37.3 million tonnes of plastic for food packaging in 2019, highlighting the substantial scale of food-packaging materials and the need for more sustainable alternatives.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:**Growing demand for sustainable packaging**

Rising consumer concern about plastic waste and environmental protection is accelerating adoption of biodegradable and compostable food packaging. Shoppers are increasingly attracted to food products using packaging that reduces long-lasting waste and supports environmentally responsible consumption. In response, manufacturers, retailers, and foodservice businesses are adopting paper, molded fiber, starch-derived materials, and compostable polymers as alternatives to conventional plastics. Corporate sustainability goals are also encouraging this transition, enabling brands to demonstrate environmental responsibility, respond to changing consumer preferences, and strengthen their market positioning within increasingly sustainability-focused food packaging markets.

Restraint:**Higher cost compared with conventional plastic packaging**

The comparatively high cost of sustainable packaging can restrict the expansion of biodegradable and compostable food packaging. Materials such as bio-based polymers, molded fiber, and specialized coatings may involve higher material, processing, and production expenses than traditional plastics. These additional costs can create challenges for smaller food manufacturers operating with limited budgets. In markets where packaging prices strongly influence purchasing decisions, businesses may hesitate to transition. As a result, conventional plastics can remain economically attractive, limiting the pace of adoption of compostable and biodegradable packaging solutions.

Opportunity:**Development of advanced bio-based packaging materials**

Progress in bio-based material technologies is opening new opportunities for advanced biodegradable and compostable food packaging. Innovations involving plant-derived polymers, cellulose fibers, starch-based materials, and other renewable resources are improving packaging strength, moisture barriers, thermal performance, and product protection. Such improvements can allow sustainable materials to enter food applications traditionally reliant on conventional plastics. Manufacturers that invest in material research can differentiate offerings through better functionality and environmental characteristics. Collaboration among material suppliers, packaging

producers, and food companies can further support commercialization and adoption of next-generation sustainable packaging solutions.

Threat:

Competition from improved conventional plastic alternatives

Advances in conventional plastic packaging could challenge the expansion of biodegradable and compostable alternatives. Lightweight, recyclable, thinner, and technologically advanced plastic formats increasingly offer durability, effective barrier protection, and competitive costs. Such characteristics can encourage food manufacturers to continue selecting plastics when price and performance are primary considerations. Ongoing improvements in recyclable materials, multilayer designs, and barrier solutions may weaken incentives for compostable packaging adoption. This threat can be especially significant in markets with limited composting infrastructure or where consumers and businesses remain sensitive to higher sustainable packaging costs.

Covid-19 Impact:

COVID-19 produced both challenges and opportunities for biodegradable and compostable food packaging. Early disruptions to manufacturing, logistics, raw-material availability, and restaurant operations temporarily constrained market growth. At the same time, increased reliance on food delivery, takeaway meals, and packaged foods boosted demand for disposable packaging formats. Greater attention to hygiene, alongside continuing environmental concerns, encouraged interest in sustainable packaging. Following economic reopening, stronger sustainability programs and measures limiting traditional plastics helped restore market momentum and supported continued adoption of biodegradable and compostable packaging solutions.

The flexible packaging segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The flexible packaging segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period due to its lightweight design, adaptability, and broad food applications. Formats such as pouches, films, wraps, and flexible bags offer convenient solutions while potentially requiring less material than rigid packaging. Their ability to accommodate different product sizes and shapes supports efficient handling, storage, and distribution. Growing consumption of convenience foods, snacks, ready-to-eat meals, and takeaway products is further encouraging the use of flexible sustainable

packaging formats across the food industry.

The e-commerce platforms segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the e-commerce platforms segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate, supported by the continued expansion of online grocery, food delivery, and direct-to-consumer sales. Packaging used in these channels must withstand transportation and handling while providing product protection and meeting sustainability expectations. Demand for lightweight, strong, leak-resistant, and eco-friendly formats is therefore increasing. Online retailers, delivery businesses, and food brands are also adopting sustainable packaging to strengthen their environmental image, supporting wider use of biodegradable and compostable materials throughout digital food distribution networks.

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the North America region is expected to hold the largest market share due to high environmental awareness and increasing preference for sustainable alternatives to traditional plastics. Manufacturers, retailers, and foodservice operators are adopting eco-friendly packaging in response to consumer expectations and corporate sustainability goals. Measures designed to reduce plastic waste are providing additional momentum. A mature packaging sector, extensive foodservice industry, and growing development of renewable packaging materials are also contributing to the region's strong adoption of biodegradable and compostable solutions across food applications.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR, supported by urban development, rising foodservice activity, and increasing consumption of packaged foods. Greater sustainability awareness is encouraging businesses and consumers to move away from traditional plastics. Government initiatives targeting plastic waste are providing additional momentum for sustainable packaging adoption. The rapid expansion of e-commerce and food delivery is also increasing requirements for eco-friendly packaging. Growing regional production capacity and investment in bio-based packaging technologies are further strengthening the market's expansion prospects.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Biodegradable & Compostable Food Packaging Market include Amcor, BASF, BioBag International, Danimer Scientific, Dinearth, Dow Chemical, Ecoware, Futamura, Genpak, Graphic Packaging Holding, Huhtamaki, International Paper, Mondi Group, NatureWorks LLC, NextGen Bioplastics, Novamont, Pakka Ltd and TIPA Corp.

Key Developments:

In December 2025, Mondi has teamed up with bicycle manufacturer Polana Bikes to develop a paper-based reusable packaging system, featuring Mondi's pre-made paper ProtectorBAG for bikes and their components. Mondi says its ProtectorBAG shields components like frames, handlebars, front wheels and saddles from damage such as scratches, punctures and dust during transport and storage.

In April 2025, Amcor plc announced the successful completion of its all-stock combination with Berry Global, effective. Through this combination, Amcor enhances its position as a global leader in consumer and healthcare packaging solutions with the unique material science and innovation capabilities required to revolutionize product development and meet customers' and consumers' sustainability aspirations.

Packaging Formats Covered:

Flexible Packaging

Rigid Packaging

Bags & Sacks

Boxes & Cartons

Material Types Covered:

Bioplastics

Paper & Paperboard

Molded Fiber

Other Natural Materials

Distribution Channels Covered:

Direct Sales

Distributors & Wholesalers

Online Platforms

Applications Covered:

Food & Beverage

Fresh Produce & Meat

Foodservice

Retail & E-commerce Packaging

End Users Covered:

Food Manufacturers

Foodservice Operators

Retail Chains & Supermarkets

E-commerce Platforms

Regions Covered:

North America

United States

Canada

Mexico

Europe

United Kingdom

Germany

France

Italy

Spain

Netherlands

Belgium

Sweden

Switzerland

Poland

Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

China

Japan

India

South Korea

Australia

Indonesia

Thailand

Malaysia

Singapore

Vietnam

Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

Brazil

Argentina

Colombia

Chile

Peru

Rest of South America

Rest of the World (RoW)

Middle East

Saudi Arabia

United Arab Emirates

Qatar

Israel

Rest of Middle East

Africa

South Africa

Egypt

Morocco

Rest of Africa

What our report offers:

Market share assessments for the regional and country-level segments

Strategic recommendations for the new entrants

Covers Market data for the years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2030, 2032 and 2034

Market Trends (Drivers, Constraints, Opportunities, Threats, Challenges, Investment Opportunities, and recommendations)

Strategic recommendations in key business segments based on the market estimations

Competitive landscaping mapping the key common trends

Company profiling with detailed strategies, financials, and recent developments

Supply chain trends mapping the latest technological advancements

Free Customization Offerings:

All the customers of this report will be entitled to receive one of the following free customization options:

Company Profiling

Comprehensive profiling of additional market players (up to 3)

SWOT Analysis of key players (up to 3)

Regional Segmentation

Market estimations, Forecasts and CAGR of any prominent country as per the client's interest (Note: Depends on feasibility check)

Competitive Benchmarking

Benchmarking of key players based on product portfolio, geographical presence, and strategic alliances

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