

Carboxymethyl Cellulose Market Forecasts to 2030 – Global Analysis By Grade (Food Grade, Industrial Grade, Textile Grade, Cosmetic Grade, Paper Grade and Other Grades), Form, Functionality, Application, End User and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Carboxymethyl Cellulose Market is accounted for \$1.9 billion in 2024 and is expected to reach \$2.6 billion by 2030 growing at a CAGR of 5.2% during the forecast period. Carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) is a water-soluble derivative of cellulose, where some hydroxyl groups in the cellulose molecule are replaced by carboxymethyl groups. This modification enhances its solubility, making CMC a versatile compound used in various industries, including food, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics. It acts as a thickening agent, stabilizer, and emulsifier, and is also used as a binder in tablets and a lubricant in personal care products. CMC is non-toxic, biodegradable, and widely recognized for its safety and effectiveness in numerous applications.

According to an article published by a food business magazine, 24% of the people from 22 countries stated that they avoided gluten in their diet, and 25% of the population are extremely cautious about gluten intolerance.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Increasing demand in the food and beverage industry

The increasing demand in the food and beverage industry is significantly driving the

growth of the market. It is widely used as a food additive due to its stabilizing, thickening, and emulsifying properties. As consumer preferences shift towards processed and convenience foods, the demand continues to rise. It is commonly used in dairy products, beverages, sauces, and gluten-free foods. The versatility in improving texture and consistency makes it a vital ingredient in modern food formulations.

Restraint:

Health concerns over synthetic additives

Health concerns over synthetic additives are negatively affecting the market. As consumers become more aware of the potential risks associated with artificial ingredients, there is growing skepticism towards products containing synthetic additives like CMC. This has led to a preference for natural and organic alternatives, limiting CMC's use in certain sectors. Consequently, manufacturers are facing challenges in addressing health concerns and maintaining consumer trust in CMC-based products.

Opportunity:

Rising consumer preferences for eco-friendly products

Rising consumer preferences for eco-friendly products are boosting the market. As sustainability becomes a priority, its natural, biodegradable, and plant-based origin makes it a preferred choice for environmentally conscious consumers. This shift is driving its use in industries such as food, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics, where eco-friendly ingredients are increasingly sought after. Its eco-friendly properties align with growing demand for sustainable alternatives across various sectors.

Threat:

Environmental impact of production processes

The environmental impact of production processes in the market can be significant. The manufacturing of CMC often involves the use of chemicals and large amounts of water, contributing to pollution and resource depletion. Wastewater from the process can contain harmful byproducts, affecting local ecosystems. Additionally, energy consumption in production plants contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, further exacerbating the carbon footprint and environmental degradation.

Covid-19 Impact:

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the market by causing supply chain interruptions and reducing production capacity. Restrictions on manufacturing and transportation led to delays and shortages, affecting the availability of CMC. Moreover, the slowdown in industries such as food, pharmaceuticals, and textiles, where CMC is widely used, decreased demand. However, increased demand for medical supplies and hygiene products provided some growth opportunities for the market during the crisis.

The food grade segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The food grade segment is anticipated to account for the largest market share during the projection period. Used as a stabilizer, thickener, and emulsifier, CMC enhances texture, shelf life, and quality in products like dairy, beverages, bakery, and sauces. Growing demand for clean-label and natural ingredients is driving market growth, with increasing consumer preference for gluten-free, low-calorie, and health-conscious food options boosting the CMC adoption across the food industry.

The dairy products segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

The dairy products segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the extrapolated period due to its ability to enhance texture, stability, and viscosity. CMC is widely used in products like yogurt, ice cream, and cheese to improve creaminess, prevent separation, and extend shelf life. Its increasing application in the dairy industry is driven by consumer demand for improved quality, consistency, and longer-lasting products, making it a key additive in dairy manufacturing.

Region with largest share:

North America region is anticipated to account for the largest market share during the forecast period driven by its diverse applications in industries such as food, pharmaceuticals, personal care, and textiles. CMC's role as a thickening, stabilizing, and emulsifying agent is key in food products, especially dairy and processed foods. The growing demand for natural and functional additives, coupled with technological advancements, is expected to further boost CMC consumption across the region in the coming years.

Region with highest CAGR:

Asia Pacific is expected to register the highest growth rate over the forecast period driven by the demand from key industries such as food & beverage, pharmaceuticals, and personal care. Market players are focusing on expanding their production capacity and tapping into emerging markets like India and Southeast Asia to capitalize on the increasing demand. Additionally, the pharmaceutical sector's use of CMC as a binder in tablet formulations, as well as its application in controlled-release medicines, is another major factor contributing to market growth.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Carboxymethyl Cellulose market include Dow Inc., Ashland Global Specialty Chemicals Inc., Nouryon, Celanese Corporation, AkzoNobel N.V., BASF SE, Daicel Corporation, The International Group, Inc., JRS Pharma, Hawkins, Inc., Nippon Paper Industries Co., Ltd., Kemira Oyj, Lotus Chemical, Kingstone Chemical, Lamberti S.p.A. and Turnspire Capital.

Key Developments:

In February 2024, Nippon Paper Industries proclaimed the formation of a fresh subsidiary in Hungary aimed at the production of carboxymethyl cellulose. With this, the company made its initial foray into the region's electric vehicle supply chain with the intent of boosting production of lithium-ion batteries.

In September 2024, Turnspire Capital Partners announced the completion of its acquisition of Pharmachem Innovations from Ashland Inc. Pharmachem specializes in proprietary nutrition ingredients and custom formulation services, employing around 500 people across multiple facilities.

Grades Covered:

Food Grade

Industrial Grade

Textile Grade

Cosmetic Grade

Paper Grade

Other Grades

Forms Covered:

Powder

Liquid

Gel

Functionalities Covered:

Thickening Agent

Stabilizer

Binder

Suspending Agent

Film-Forming Agent

Applications Covered:

Dairy Products

Bakery Products

Tablets and Capsules

Hair Care

Coatings

Detergents

Other Applications

End Users Covered:

Food & Beverages

Pharmaceuticals

Personal Care

Oil & Gas

Other End Users

Regions Covered:

North America

US

Canada

Mexico

Europe

Germany

UK

Italy

France

Spain

Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

Japan

China

India

Australia

New Zealand

South Korea

Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

Argentina

Brazil

Chile

Rest of South America

Middle East & Africa

Saudi Arabia

UAE

Qatar

South Africa

Rest of Middle East & 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 2022, 2023, 2024, 2026, and 2030
- 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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