

Drum Packaging Market Forecasts to 2032 – Global Analysis By Material Type (Plastic Drums, Metal Drums, and Fiber & Composite Drums), Drum Type (Tight Head/Closed Head Drums, and Open Head Drums), Capacity, Service Type, End User, and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Drum Packaging Market is accounted for \$16.5 billion in 2025 and is expected to reach \$27.3 billion by 2032, growing at a CAGR of 7.5% during the forecast period. Drum packaging refers to the use of cylindrical containers, made from materials like steel, plastic, or fiber, to store and transport bulk liquids, powders, and granulated materials. These drums are designed to provide durability, leak resistance, and protection against contamination. Commonly used in industries such as chemicals, food, and pharmaceuticals, drum packaging ensures safe handling, efficient storage, and easy shipment of large-volume products while maintaining product quality and integrity.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Superior protective properties against moisture, corrosion, and contamination

Drum packaging's ability to shield contents from environmental hazards underpins its demand across chemical, food, and petroleum sectors. Sturdy construction preserves product integrity during storage and transit, reducing spoilage, contamination, liability for handlers. Manufacturers and end users prefer drums for hazardous and reactive

materials because they meet regulatory containment standards and simplify handling workflows. Furthermore, barrier performance extends shelf life and supports supply chains when product quality is critical, reinforcing drums as a preferred bulk-packaging solution.

Restraint:

Volatility in raw material prices impacting production costs

Fluctuating prices for steel, plastics, and resin feedstocks introduce unpredictability into drum manufacturers' margins. Sudden cost spikes force producers to pass expenses to buyers or absorb narrower profits, reducing price competitiveness. Smaller fabricators face strain from short-term volatility because they lack hedging capacity and diversified procurement. Moreover, inconsistent input costs complicate long-term contracts and investment planning, prompting cautious capital expenditure and slowing capacity expansion across regions reliant on imported raw materials.

Opportunity:

Lightweight composite materials improving sustainability

Emerging composites and fiber-reinforced polymers reduce drum weight while maintaining strength, lowering transportation emissions and fuel consumption. Lightweight drums enable higher pallet density and decreased shipping costs per unit, improving logistics efficiency for shippers and distributors. Additionally, materials innovation supports recyclable or reusable designs that meet corporate sustainability targets and regulatory pressures. Adoption of lighter materials encourages lifecycle thinking, as manufacturers can offer takeback programs and reduce overall carbon footprints, unlocking new procurement from sustainability-focused buyers and reduce costs.

Threat:

High logistics costs for empty drum return and recycling

Reverse logistics for bulk drums is costly due to volume, weight, and cleanliness requirements; transporting empties back to collection centers often negates reuse economics. Complex routing, quarantine regulations for hazardous residues, and regional recycling gaps increase handling expenses and turnaround times.

Consequently, some users opt for single-use containers, undermining circular-economy benefits. Addressing these hurdles requires investment in collection networks, standardized cleaning protocols, and incentives to make drum reclamation commercially viable to achieve scalable cost reductions.

Covid-19 Impact:

The pandemic disrupted supply chains and manufacturing, producing temporary raw material shortages and logistic bottlenecks that affected drum availability. Demand fluctuated by end-use: medical and pharmaceutical sectors needed more packaging for supplies, while sectors such as automotive saw reduced orders. Lockdowns delayed maintenance and capacity upgrades for producers, increasing lead times. Overall, Covid accelerated supply-chain diversification and inventory planning, prompting firms to revise sourcing strategies and invest in resilient logistics to strengthen operational continuity effectively.

The plastic drums segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The plastic drums segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period. Plastic drums offer affordability, chemical resistance, and design flexibility, suiting industries such as chemicals, food, and agriculture. Producers benefit from lower tooling expenses and faster cycles compared with metal alternatives, while users gain reduced corrosion risk and simpler handling. Improved polymer formulations, coupled with growing recycling programs, are broadening acceptances of plastic drums for reusable and single-use needs across supply chains and significantly enhance operational efficiencies.

The up to 30-gallon drums segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the up to 30-gallon drums segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate. Smaller-capacity drums meet growing demand for flexible packaging among mid-sized processors, specialty chemical formulators, and food ingredient suppliers that require manageable lot sizes. Compact drums reduce storage footprint and improve handling safety, enabling easier manual and mechanized movement in crowded warehouses. The trend toward localized production and shorter supply chains favors smaller volumes, supporting adoption of up to 30-gallon drums for efficient distribution

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the North America region is expected to hold the largest market share. Robust industrial activity, a substantial chemicals sector, and high standards for packaging safety underpin regional demand for drums. Well-developed logistics networks and widespread adoption of returnable container programs support reuse. Strong regulatory oversight and investments in spill-prevention and hazardous-material handling encourage purchases of certified drums. These factors combined with established manufacturing capacity and proximity to key end markets sustain North America's leading position.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR. Rapid industrialization, expanding chemical and food manufacturing hubs, and rising infrastructure investment are driving drum demand across the region. Improving logistics, growing trade, and increased foreign investment make local production more viable, while manufacturers adapt cost-effective materials. Government initiatives to modernize packaging and heightened environmental awareness encourage adoption of reusable systems and lightweight alternatives, accelerating market growth across diverse APAC markets and strengthen supply chains.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Drum Packaging Market include Greif, Inc., Mauser Packaging Solutions, Schütz GmbH & Co. KGaA, Time Technoplast Ltd., Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd., Sonoco Products Company, Nampak Ltd., JFE Container Co., Ltd., CurTec International B.V., Skolnik Industries, Inc., North Coast Container LLC, Enviro-Pak, Inc., Yashraj Containeurs Ltd., Nippon Steel Drum Co., Ltd., Pact Group Holdings Ltd., and Sicagen India Limited.

Key Developments:

In September 2025, Greif, Inc. launched the EcoBalance™ Low Carbon Emission Steel Drums, designed with 75% recycled steel in partnership with ArcelorMittal. These drums reduce the carbon footprint by about 60% while maintaining durability and performance standards of traditional steel drums.

In February 2025, CurTec %- %manufacturer of high performance plastic packaging %-

%is proud to announce the latest addition to our innovative Fold Pack range: the 46 liter Fold Pack pail, available from today. This expanded capacity builds on the success of the 32 liter version, offering even greater versatility while maintaining the features that make Fold Pack a leader in cost-effective, efficient packaging.

In July 2024, In September 2025, Greif, Inc. launched the EcoBalance™ Low Carbon Emission Steel Drums, designed with 75% recycled steel in partnership with ArcelorMittal. These drums reduce the carbon footprint by about 60% while maintaining durability and performance standards of traditional steel drums. The handles will be processed by Suzutoyo Seiko Co., Ltd., a partner of Sumitomo Corporation Global Metals Co., Ltd., and they will be integrated with the LOOPOX containers by Sato Seisakusho Co., Ltd. The containers, are produced with 100% recycled plastic, are made by Sato Seisakusho and Shinto Tsushin Co, Ltd.

Material Types Covered:

Plastic Drums

Metal Drums

Fiber & Composite Drums

Drum Types Covered:

Tight Head / Closed Head Drums

Open Head Drums

Capacities Covered:

Up to 30-Gallon Drums

31-Gallon to 54-Gallon Drums

55-Gallon Drums

Other Standard Capacities

Custom/Specialty Capacities

Service Types Covered:

New Drum Sales

Drum Reconditioning & Reconditioned Drum Sales

Rental Services

End Users Covered:

Chemicals & Solvents

Petroleum & Lubricants

Food & Beverage

Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare

Building & Construction

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 2024, 2025, 2026, 2028, and 2032
- 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

Contents

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2 PREFACE

- 2.1 Abstract
- 2.2 Stake Holders
- 2.3 Research Scope
- 2.4 Research Methodology
 - 2.4.1 Data Mining
 - 2.4.2 Data Analysis
 - 2.4.3 Data Validation
 - 2.4.4 Research Approach
- 2.5 Research Sources
 - 2.5.1 Primary Research Sources
 - 2.5.2 Secondary Research Sources
 - 2.5.3 Assumptions

3 MARKET TREND ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Drivers
- 3.3 Restraints
- 3.4 Opportunities
- 3.5 Threats
- 3.6 End User Analysis
- 3.7 Emerging Markets
- 3.8 Impact of Covid-19

4 PORTERS FIVE FORCE ANALYSIS

- 4.1 Bargaining power of suppliers
- 4.2 Bargaining power of buyers
- 4.3 Threat of substitutes
- 4.4 Threat of new entrants
- 4.5 Competitive rivalry

5 GLOBAL DRUM PACKAGING MARKET, BY MATERIAL TYPE

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Plastic Drums
 - 5.2.1 HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) Drums
 - 5.2.2 Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Drums
 - 5.2.3 Other Plastic Drums
- 5.3 Metal Drums
 - 5.3.1 Steel Drums
 - 5.3.2 Aluminum Drums
 - 5.3.3 Other Metal Drums
- 5.4 Fiber & Composite Drums

6 GLOBAL DRUM PACKAGING MARKET, BY DRUM TYPE

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Tight Head / Closed Head Drums
- 6.3 Open Head Drums

7 GLOBAL DRUM PACKAGING MARKET, BY CAPACITY

- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Up to 30-Gallon Drums
- 7.3 31-Gallon to 54-Gallon Drums
- 7.4 55-Gallon Drums
- 7.5 Other Standard Capacities
- 7.6 Custom/Specialty Capacities

8 GLOBAL DRUM PACKAGING MARKET, BY SERVICE TYPE

- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 New Drum Sales
- 8.3 Drum Reconditioning & Reconditioned Drum Sales
- 8.4 Rental Services

9 GLOBAL DRUM PACKAGING MARKET, BY END USER

- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Chemicals & Solvents
- 9.3 Petroleum & Lubricants

- 9.4 Food & Beverage
- 9.5 Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare
- 9.6 Building & Construction
- 9.7 Other End Users

10 GLOBAL DRUM PACKAGING MARKET, BY GEOGRAPHY

- 10.1 Introduction
- 10.2 North America
 - 10.2.1 US
 - 10.2.2 Canada
 - 10.2.3 Mexico
- 10.3 Europe
 - 10.3.1 Germany
 - 10.3.2 UK
 - 10.3.3 Italy
 - 10.3.4 France
 - 10.3.5 Spain
 - 10.3.6 Rest of Europe
- 10.4 Asia Pacific
 - 10.4.1 Japan
 - 10.4.2 China
 - 10.4.3 India
 - 10.4.4 Australia
 - 10.4.5 New Zealand
 - 10.4.6 South Korea
 - 10.4.7 Rest of Asia Pacific
- 10.5 South America
 - 10.5.1 Argentina
 - 10.5.2 Brazil
 - 10.5.3 Chile
 - 10.5.4 Rest of South America
- 10.6 Middle East & Africa
 - 10.6.1 Saudi Arabia
 - 10.6.2 UAE
 - 10.6.3 Qatar
 - 10.6.4 South Africa
 - 10.6.5 Rest of Middle East & Africa

11 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- 11.1 Agreements, Partnerships, Collaborations and Joint Ventures
- 11.2 Acquisitions & Mergers
- 11.3 New Product Launch
- 11.4 Expansions
- 11.5 Other Key Strategies

12 COMPANY PROFILING

- 12.1 Greif, Inc.
- 12.2 Mauser Packaging Solutions
- 12.3 Sch?tz GmbH & Co. KGaA
- 12.4 Time Technoplast Ltd.
- 12.5 Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
- 12.6 Sonoco Products Company
- 12.7 Nampak Ltd.
- 12.8 JFE Container Co., Ltd.
- 12.9 CurTec International B.V.
- 12.10 Skolnik Industries, Inc.
- 12.11 North Coast Container LLC
- 12.12 Enviro-Pak, Inc.
- 12.13 Yashraj Containeurs Ltd.
- 12.14 Nippon Steel Drum Co., Ltd.
- 12.15 Pact Group Holdings Ltd.
- 12.16 Sicagen India Limited

List Of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Region (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 2 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Material Type (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 3 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Plastic Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 4 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 5 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 6 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Other Plastic Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 7 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Metal Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 8 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Steel Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 9 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Aluminum Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 10 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Other Metal Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 11 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Fiber & Composite Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 12 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Drum Type (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 13 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Tight Head / Closed Head Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 14 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Open Head Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 15 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Capacity (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 16 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Up to 30-Gallon Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 17 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By 31-Gallon to 54-Gallon Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 18 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By 55-Gallon Drums (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 19 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Other Standard Capacities (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 20 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Custom/Specialty Capacities (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 21 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Service Type (2024–2032) (\$MN)
- Table 22 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By New Drum Sales (2024–2032)

(\$MN)

Table 23 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Drum Reconditioning & Reconditioned Drum Sales (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Table 24 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Rental Services (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Table 25 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By End User (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Table 26 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Chemicals & Solvents (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Table 27 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Petroleum & Lubricants (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Table 28 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Food & Beverage (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Table 29 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Table 30 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Building & Construction (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Table 31 Global Drum Packaging Market Outlook, By Other End Users (2024–2032) (\$MN)

Note: Tables for North America, Europe, APAC, South America, and Middle East & Africa Regions are also represented in the same manner as above.

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