

Food Sorting Systems Market Forecasts to 2032 – Global Analysis By Product Type (Belt Sorters, Freefall Sorters, Channel Sorters, ADR Systems, and Other Product Types), Sorting Mechanism, Technology, Application, End User and By Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Food Sorting Systems Market is accounted for \$2.6 billion in 2025 and is expected to reach \$3.5 billion by 2032 growing at a CAGR of 4.5% during the forecast period. Food Sorting Systems are automated machines used in food processing to ensure quality and safety. They utilize cameras, sensors, and lasers to inspect products based on size, color, shape, and biological or chemical defects. Using air jets or mechanical arms, they automatically separate undesirable items (like rotten produce or foreign materials) from the good product. This technology enhances efficiency, reduces labor costs, minimizes waste, and ensures a consistent, high-quality output that meets stringent food safety standards for consumers.

According to TOMRA Food, new AI-powered optical sorters can now reduce food waste by up to 15%, a key driver for the global market's growth as processors seek efficiency and sustainability.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Rising demand for quality assurance efficiency

The food industry is increasingly prioritizing quality assurance to meet stringent safety regulations and consumer expectations. Automated sorting systems enhance efficiency

by minimizing human error and ensuring consistent product quality. This demand is especially strong in sectors like fresh produce, meat, and packaged foods, where visual and structural integrity are critical. Advanced technologies such as optical sensors and real-time analytics are being integrated to detect defects, contaminants, and inconsistencies. As global food consumption rises, manufacturers are investing in high-speed, high-accuracy sorting systems to maintain brand reputation and reduce waste across supply chains.

Restraint:

High equipment installation costs

Despite their benefits, food sorting systems require substantial capital investment, which can deter small and medium-sized enterprises. Installation costs include not only the machinery but also infrastructure upgrades, staff training, and ongoing maintenance. Customization for specific food types or production lines further increases expenses. Additionally, integrating these systems with existing workflows and digital platforms can be complex and costly. In emerging markets, limited access to financing and skilled labor compounds the challenge. These financial barriers slow adoption, especially in regions where manual sorting remains prevalent due to affordability and operational simplicity.

Opportunity:

Integration of AI-based sorting algorithms

Artificial intelligence is revolutionizing food sorting by enabling smarter, faster, and more adaptive systems. AI-based algorithms can analyze vast datasets to improve defect detection, predict maintenance needs, and optimize sorting parameters in real time. Machine learning models enhance accuracy by learning from past sorting outcomes, reducing false positives and improving yield. This opens opportunities for manufacturers to handle complex sorting tasks like ripeness grading, foreign object detection, and allergen identification. As AI becomes more accessible, companies can scale operations, reduce waste, and meet evolving regulatory standards with greater precision and agility.

Threat:

Supply chain disruptions

Global supply chain instability poses a significant threat to the food sorting systems market. Disruptions caused by geopolitical tensions, natural disasters, or pandemics can delay equipment delivery, inflate costs, and hinder system deployment. Shortages in critical components like sensors, chips, and motors affect production timelines and service availability. Additionally, logistical bottlenecks and fluctuating raw material prices challenge manufacturers' ability to maintain consistent output. These uncertainties force companies to reassess procurement strategies, diversify suppliers, and invest in more resilient infrastructure, potentially slowing market growth and innovation in the short term.

Covid-19 Impact:

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated automation in food processing, including sorting systems, as companies sought to reduce human contact and ensure operational continuity. Demand surged for hygienic, contactless solutions capable of maintaining throughput amid labor shortages. However, the pandemic also disrupted supply chains, delaying installations and increasing costs. Remote commissioning and digital support services gained traction, enabling manufacturers to deploy and maintain systems with minimal on-site presence. Overall, COVID-19 acted as both a catalyst and a constraint driving innovation while exposing vulnerabilities in global sourcing and deployment strategies.

The belt sorters segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The belt sorters segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period, due to their versatility, scalability, and efficiency. These systems are widely used across various food categories, including fruits, vegetables, grains, and packaged goods. Their ability to handle high volumes with consistent accuracy makes them ideal for large-scale operations. Technological advancements such as multi-sensor integration and modular designs have further enhanced their appeal. Belt sorters also support diverse sorting criteria color, shape, size, and defects making them a preferred choice for manufacturers aiming to maximize yield and minimize waste.

The mechanical sorting segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the mechanical sorting segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate, due to their cost-effectiveness and adaptability. These systems use

physical properties like weight, size, and shape to sort food items, making them suitable for basic sorting tasks in small and mid-sized facilities. Innovations in mechanical design and automation are expanding their capabilities, allowing integration with digital controls and sensors. As demand grows for affordable, low-maintenance solutions in emerging markets, mechanical sorters offer an attractive entry point for automation, driving rapid adoption and market expansion.

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is expected to hold the largest market share, driven by rapid industrialization, rising food demand, and increasing regulatory scrutiny. Countries like China, India, and Japan are investing heavily in food processing infrastructure to meet domestic and export needs. Government initiatives promoting food safety and automation are accelerating adoption. The region's large agricultural base and growing middle class further fuel demand for high-quality, efficiently sorted food products. Local manufacturers are also entering the market, offering cost-competitive solutions tailored to regional needs, solidifying Asia Pacific's dominant position.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the North America region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR fueled by technological innovation and strong regulatory frameworks. The region's emphasis on food safety, sustainability, and operational efficiency drives demand for advanced sorting solutions. Companies are adopting AI, machine vision, and robotics to enhance sorting precision and reduce labor dependency. The presence of key industry players and robust R&D ecosystems supports continuous innovation. Additionally, consumer preferences for premium, traceable food products encourage investment in high-performance sorting systems across the U.S. and Canada.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Food Sorting Systems Market include TOMRA Systems ASA, Bühler Group, SATAKE Corporation, Sesotec GmbH, Newtec A/S, AWETA, Greefa, Maf Roda Agrobotic, Cimbria, Multiscan Technologies, Raytec Vision SpA, Hefei Meyer Optoelectronic Technology Inc., Anhui Jiexun Optoelectronic Technology Co., Ltd., Binder+Co AG, Ellips B.V., BBC Technologies, Optimum NV, Reemoon Technology Holdings Co., Ltd. and Innotech Process Equipment

Key Developments:

In August 2025, TOMRA Systems ASA launched the new LUCAI AI platform for its food sorters, utilizing deep learning to identify and remove subtle defects like mildew on nuts and internal defects in fruits with 99.9% accuracy.

In July 2025, B?hler Group introduced the new Sortex A2000 optical sorter for rice and grains, featuring hyperspectral imaging to detect and eject mycotoxins and pesticide residues, ensuring compliance with stringent new EU food safety standards.

In June 2025, SATAKE Corporation announced a strategic 'Make in India' initiative to locally manufacture its flagship Colorvision sorters, making advanced optical sorting technology more accessible to India's growing food processing industry.

Product Types Covered:

Belt Sorters

Freefall Sorters

Channel Sorters

ADR Systems

Other Product Types

Sorting Mechanisms Covered:

Mechanical Sorting

Automated Sorting

Technologies Covered:

Machine Vision

Laser

X-ray

LED

Hyperspectral Imaging

Other Technologies

Applications Covered:

Fruits & Vegetables

Grains & Cereals

Dry Food

Meat, Poultry, and Seafood

Dairy Products

Packaged & Processed Foods

Other Applications

End Users Covered:

Food Processing Companies

Farmers & Cooperatives

Retail & Wholesale Distributors

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

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