

In Flight Catering Services Market Forecasts to 2034 – Global Analysis By Type of Service (Full-Service Catering, Buy-On-Board (BOB), Refreshment Only Services, Special Meal Services, and Other Types), Passenger Class, Service Provider, Meal Type, Distribution Channel and By Geography

<https://marketpublishers.com/r/I0C3353837B7EN.html>

Date: February 2026

Pages: 200

Price: US\$ 4,150.00 (Single User License)

ID: I0C3353837B7EN

Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global In Flight Catering Services Market is accounted for \$21.70 billion in 2026 and is expected to reach \$39.87 billion by 2034 growing at a CAGR of 7.9% during the forecast period. In-flight catering services encompass the end-to-end process of supplying meals, refreshments, and onboard consumables for airline passengers and crew. This involves menu design, food preparation, secure packaging, and efficient logistics aligned with flight schedules and airline requirements. Offerings vary based on travel duration, service class, and dietary needs, while compliance with stringent food safety and quality norms remains essential. These services play a vital role in improving onboard comfort, service quality, and customer satisfaction during air journeys.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Rising air passenger traffic and premiumization trends

Increasing disposable incomes and the expansion of low-cost carriers (LCCs) are making air travel more accessible, directly boosting demand for onboard catering. Concurrently, airlines are competing to enhance passenger experience, especially in

premium economy, business, and first-class cabins. This trend towards 'premiumization' is driving investments in gourmet meals, curated beverages, and personalized dining services. The demand for diverse, high-quality, and regionally inspired menus is compelling caterers to innovate and expand their offerings, thereby fueling market growth.

Restraint:

High operational costs and complex logistics

The costs associated with sourcing high-quality, fresh ingredients, specialized packaging that meets aviation safety standards, and maintaining stringent food safety protocols are substantial. Logistics are complicated by tight turnaround times at airports, coordination with flight schedules, and regulatory compliance across different regions. Furthermore, fluctuations in fuel prices and economic downturns can lead to airline cost-cutting, often impacting catering budgets. These factors squeeze profit margins for caterers and can limit market expansion, particularly for smaller service providers.

Opportunity:

Expansion of special dietary and health-conscious meals

Passengers increasingly seek meals catering to specific needs such as vegan, gluten-free, keto, halal, kosher, or low-calorie diets. This trend is driven by rising health awareness, dietary restrictions, and cultural preferences. Caterers who can efficiently provide a wide variety of specialized meals gain a competitive edge. Additionally, the focus on wellness extends to using organic, locally sourced, and sustainable ingredients. Capitalizing on this demand allows companies to differentiate their services, command premium pricing, and build brand loyalty among airlines and passengers.

Threat:

Vulnerability to aviation industry volatility and disruptions

Severe disruptions, such as global pandemics, geopolitical tensions, economic recessions, or natural disasters, can lead to drastic reductions in flight frequencies and passenger numbers, directly decimating catering demand. Events like the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how quickly demand can evaporate, leading to massive revenue losses and food waste. Additionally, airlines' constant pressure to reduce

operational costs can result in renegotiated contracts at lower rates or a shift towards simpler, cheaper catering models, threatening caterers' profitability and stability.

Covid-19 Impact:

The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on the in-flight catering services market. With international borders closing and air travel plummeting, demand for catering services collapsed almost overnight. Airlines drastically reduced or suspended services, leading to massive revenue losses, layoffs, and food waste for caterers. However, the crisis accelerated certain adaptations, such as a heightened focus on hygiene, the implementation of contactless service models, and a shift towards pre-packaged, single-use meal options to reassure passengers. As recovery progresses, the industry is emphasizing operational flexibility, digital integration for inventory management, and more resilient, cost-effective supply chains.

The full-service catering segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The full-service catering segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period, as it remains the core service model for most full-service and premium airlines. This segment involves providing comprehensive hot and cold meals, beverages, and amenities across all passenger classes. It is driven by the need for airlines to offer an inclusive travel experience as a key differentiator, especially on long-haul and international routes. Continuous innovation in menu design, partnerships with celebrity chefs, and the integration of multi-course dining in premium cabins sustain its dominance.

The business class segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the business class segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate, driven by increasing business travel demand and airlines' strategic focus on capturing high-revenue passengers. Airlines are investing heavily to elevate business class experiences, introducing chef-designed menus, premium wines, and bespoke dining services. The expansion of business class cabins on new long-haul aircraft and the growth of routes between major economic hubs further propel this segment. Caterers are responding with sophisticated, restaurant-quality offerings and personalized service.

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is expected to hold the largest market share, fueled by rapid expansion in air travel, particularly in China, India, and Southeast Asia, driven by growing middle-class populations and increasing tourism. Massive investments in airport infrastructure and the fleet expansion of both full-service and low-cost carriers are creating sustained demand for catering services. Furthermore, diverse culinary expectations across the region require caterers to offer a wide variety of local and international cuisines.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Middle East & Africa region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR, driven by the strategic expansion of major Gulf carriers (such as Emirates, Etihad, and Qatar Airways), which are renowned for their high-quality in-flight catering and extensive global networks. These airlines set premium standards, driving demand for advanced catering services. Additionally, increasing investments in airport hubs across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, along with rising religious and leisure travel to the region, are key factors.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in In Flight Catering Services Market include LSG Sky Chefs, AeroChef, gategroup, Royal In-Flight Catering, SATS Ltd., China Eastern Air Catering Investment Co., Ltd., DO & CO Aktiengesellschaft, ANA Catering Service Co., Ltd., Flying Food Group, Air Culinaire Worldwide, Newrest Group, Saudi Airlines Catering Company, dnata, Cathay Pacific Catering Services, and Emirates Flight Catering.

Key Developments:

In May 2024, The LSG Group and The Vegetarian Butcher are thrilled to announce a new partnership at this year's World Travel Catering & Onboard Service Expo (WTCE) in Hamburg, Germany. The collaboration aims to bring one of the most important food and nutrition trends of our time up into the air and on the trays of the LSG Group's airline customers: Plant-based and vegan meals made with meat alternatives that are tasty and do not let consumers feel like they are missing out on anything.

In June 2023, Yocova a Rolls Royce company and AeroChef have partnered together to promote AeroChef Inflight Catering Management System for Airlines on their aviation

platform. The partnership is based on the premise that companies that once worked in silos now thrive on collaborative networks, powered by data. It's time for the aviation industry to join the data revolution and leverage collective expertise.

Product Types Covered:

- Full-Service Catering
- Buy-On-Board (BOB)
- Refreshment Only Services
- Special Meal Services
- Other Types

Passenger Classes Covered:

- Economy Class
- Premium Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

Service Providers Covered:

- Airline Internal Catering
- Third-Party Catering Service Providers
- Regional Catering Contractors

Meal Types Covered:

Hot Meals

Cold Meals

Snacks & Beverages

Special Dietary Meals

Distribution Channels Covered:

Direct Airline Contracts

Outsourced Contracts

Franchise/Licensee Model

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

In Flight Catering Services Market Forecasts to 2034 – Global Analysis By Type of Service (Full-Service Cateri...

- 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

Contents

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Market Snapshot and Key Highlights
- 1.2 Growth Drivers, Challenges, and Opportunities
- 1.3 Competitive Landscape Overview
- 1.4 Strategic Insights and Recommendations

2 RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 Study Objectives and Scope
- 2.2 Stakeholder Analysis
- 2.3 Research Assumptions and Limitations
- 2.4 Research Methodology
 - 2.4.1 Data Collection (Primary and Secondary)
 - 2.4.2 Data Modeling and Estimation Techniques
 - 2.4.3 Data Validation and Triangulation
 - 2.4.4 Analytical and Forecasting Approach

3 MARKET DYNAMICS AND TREND ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Market Definition and Structure
- 3.2 Key Market Drivers
- 3.3 Market Restraints and Challenges
- 3.4 Growth Opportunities and Investment Hotspots
- 3.5 Industry Threats and Risk Assessment
- 3.6 Technology and Innovation Landscape
- 3.7 Emerging and High-Growth Markets
- 3.8 Regulatory and Policy Environment
- 3.9 Impact of COVID-19 and Recovery Outlook

4 COMPETITIVE AND STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 Porter's Five Forces Analysis
 - 4.1.1 Supplier Bargaining Power
 - 4.1.2 Buyer Bargaining Power
 - 4.1.3 Threat of Substitutes
 - 4.1.4 Threat of New Entrants

- 4.1.5 Competitive Rivalry
- 4.2 Market Share Analysis of Key Players
- 4.3 Product Benchmarking and Performance Comparison

5 GLOBAL IN FLIGHT CATERING SERVICES MARKET, BY TYPE OF SERVICE

- 5.1 Full-Service Catering
- 5.2 Buy-On-Board (BOB)
- 5.3 Refreshment Only Services
- 5.4 Special Meal Services
- 5.5 Other Types

6 GLOBAL IN FLIGHT CATERING SERVICES MARKET, BY PASSENGER CLASS

- 6.1 Economy Class
- 6.2 Premium Economy
- 6.3 Business Class
- 6.4 First Class

7 GLOBAL IN FLIGHT CATERING SERVICES MARKET, BY SERVICE PROVIDER

- 7.1 Airline Internal Catering
- 7.2 Third-Party Catering Service Providers
- 7.3 Regional Catering Contractors

8 GLOBAL IN FLIGHT CATERING SERVICES MARKET, BY MEAL TYPE

- 8.1 Hot Meals
- 8.2 Cold Meals
- 8.3 Snacks & Beverages
- 8.4 Special Dietary Meals

9 GLOBAL IN FLIGHT CATERING SERVICES MARKET, BY DISTRIBUTION CHANNEL

- 9.1 Direct Airline Contracts
- 9.2 Outsourced Contracts
- 9.3 Franchise/Licensee Model

10 GLOBAL IN FLIGHT CATERING SERVICES MARKET, BY GEOGRAPHY

10.1 North America

10.1.1 United States

10.1.2 Canada

10.1.3 Mexico

10.2 Europe

10.2.1 United Kingdom

10.2.2 Germany

10.2.3 France

10.2.4 Italy

10.2.5 Spain

10.2.6 Netherlands

10.2.7 Belgium

10.2.8 Sweden

10.2.9 Switzerland

10.2.10 Poland

10.2.10 Rest of Europe

10.3 Asia Pacific

10.3.1 China

10.3.2 Japan

10.3.3 India

10.3.4 South Korea

10.3.5 Australia

10.3.6 Indonesia

10.3.7 Thailand

10.3.8 Malaysia

10.3.9 Singapore

10.3.10 Vietnam

10.3.10 Rest of Asia Pacific

10.4 South America

10.4.1 Brazil

10.4.2 Argentina

10.4.3 Colombia

10.4.4 Chile

10.4.5 Peru

10.4.6 Rest of South America

10.5 Rest of the World (RoW)

10.5.1 Middle East

- 10.5.1.1 Saudi Arabia
- 10.5.1.2 United Arab Emirates
- 10.5.1.3 Qatar
- 10.5.1.4 Israel
- 10.5.1.5 Rest of Middle East
- 10.5.2 Africa
 - 10.5.2.1 South Africa
 - 10.5.2.2 Egypt
 - 10.5.2.3 Morocco
 - 10.5.2.4 Rest of Africa

11 STRATEGIC MARKET INTELLIGENCE

- 11.1 Industry Value Network and Supply Chain Assessment
- 11.2 White-Space and Opportunity Mapping
- 11.3 Product Evolution and Market Life Cycle Analysis
- 11.4 Channel, Distributor, and Go-to-Market Assessment

12 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 12.1 Mergers and Acquisitions
- 12.2 Partnerships, Alliances, and Joint Ventures
- 12.3 New Product Launches and Certifications
- 12.4 Capacity Expansion and Investments
- 12.5 Other Strategic Initiatives

13 COMPANY PROFILES

- 13.1 LSG Sky Chefs
- 13.2 AeroChef
- 13.3 gategroup
- 13.4 Royal In-Flight Catering
- 13.5 SATS Ltd.
- 13.6 China Eastern Air Catering Investment Co., Ltd.
- 13.7 DO & CO Aktiengesellschaft
- 13.8 ANA Catering Service Co., Ltd.
- 13.9 Flying Food Group
- 13.10 Air Culinaire Worldwide
- 13.11 Newrest Group

13.12 Saudi Airlines Catering Company

13.13 dnata

13.14 Cathay Pacific Catering Services

13.15 Emirates Flight Catering

List Of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Region (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 2 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Type of Service (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 3 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Full-Service Catering (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 4 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Buy-On-Board (BOB) (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 5 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Refreshment Only Services (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 6 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Special Meal Services (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 7 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Other Types (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 8 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Passenger Class (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 9 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Economy Class (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 10 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Premium Economy (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 11 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Business Class (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 12 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By First Class (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 13 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Service Provider (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 14 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Airline Internal Catering (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 15 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Third-Party Catering Service Providers (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 16 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Regional Catering Contractors (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 17 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Meal Type (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 18 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Hot Meals (2023-2034)

(\$MN)

Table 19 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Cold Meals (2023-2034)

(\$MN)

Table 20 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Snacks & Beverages (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 21 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Special Dietary Meals (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 22 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Distribution Channel (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 23 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Direct Airline Contracts (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 24 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Outsourced Contracts (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Table 25 Global In Flight Catering Services Market Outlook, By Franchise/Licensee Model (2023-2034) (\$MN)

Note: Tables for North America, Europe, APAC, South America, and Rest of the World (RoW) are also represented in the same manner as above.

I would like to order

Product name: In Flight Catering Services Market Forecasts to 2034 – Global Analysis By Type of Service (Full-Service Catering, Buy-On-Board (BOB), Refreshment Only Services, Special Meal Services, and Other Types), Passenger Class, Service Provider, Meal Type, Distribution Channel and By Geography

Product link: <https://marketpublishers.com/r/I0C3353837B7EN.html>

Price: US\$ 4,150.00 (Single User License / Electronic Delivery)

If you want to order Corporate License or Hard Copy, please, contact our Customer Service:

info@marketpublishers.com

Payment

To pay by Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, PayPal), please, click button on product page <https://marketpublishers.com/r/I0C3353837B7EN.html>